

Intimations.

VICTORIA HOTEL,
PRAYA CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

PROPRIETORS, DORABEE & HING-KEE,
LATE LESSEES OF THE
HONGKONG HOTEL.

THIS FIRST CLASS HOTEL situated on the PRAYA CENTRAL in the centre of the principal business localities, commands a magnificent view of the Harbour and Surrounding Scenery. From its detached position, perfect ventilation has been secured, and the whole of the Rooms being COMMODIOUS and FURNISHED with every requisite and comfort, afford most desirable accommodation.

The BAR, BILLIARD ROOM, and DINING ROOMS, are fitted up in a Superior manner, and are all under European Supervision and Management.

The TABLE D'HOTE is supplied with every delicacy of the Season, and most satisfactory attendance. WINES and LIQUORS of the Best Qualities and Brands only are supplied.

Arrangements for BALLS, BANQUETS, DINNERS and PICNICS, made on the most reasonable terms. The long and almost exclusive experience of the Proprietors, and the excellent reputation they have gained, are a sufficient guarantee that satisfaction will be given in this branch.

With every facility for making suitable arrangements at Reasonable Prices, either for permanent or weekly BOARDERS, the Proprietors confidently appeal to the community of Hongkong for a continuance of the generous patronage bestowed on them during the past eleven years.

VICTORIA HOTEL,
22, Praya Central, Hongkong.
Hongkong, 20th November, 1883. [668]

ROYAL YORK HOTEL,
OLD STYRENE, BRIGHTON, ENGLAND.

THE above HOTEL is Centrally situated, with Suitable Rooms and ample accommodation for travellers, especially those coming from Eastern Climates. FAMILIES and GENTLEMEN will find every comfort they can wish for at the above establishment.

A. HOADLY,
Proprietor.

"CLARIDGE'S HOTEL,"
BRACK STREET, LONDON, W.

THE above is a Commodious and Suitable HOTEL for FAMILIES and GENTLEMEN going home from the Far East. It is under the direct able Management of Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE PRAGNELL who spare no pains in providing their visitors with every possible comfort.

MRS. P. SMITH'S
PRIVATE Tiffin Rooms,
Nos. 8 and 9, BEACONSFIELD ARCADE.

ARRANGEMENTS for BOARD and LODGING can be made by applying on the Premises.

Hongkong, 6th December, 1883. [910]

A CARD.

PRIVATE BOARD AND LODGING can be obtained for SINGLE GENTLEMEN OR MARRIED COUPLES AT

No. 6, QUEEN'S ROAD EAST,
Next Door to the Temperance Hall.
Terms Moderate.

Hongkong, 10th July, 1883. [552]

NOTICE.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the MEMBERS of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER of COMMERCE will be held at the CITY HALL, on WEDNESDAY, the 2nd January, 1884, at 11 in the FORENOON, to nominate a Member for election to the Legislative Council.

By Order,
E. GEORGE,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 22nd December, 1883. [949]

THE CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 24th to the 31st instant, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
J. BRADLEE SMITH,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 19th December, 1883. [946]

HONGKONG & CHINA GAS COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 23rd instant until the 5th proximo, both days inclusive.

HENRY R. H. MARTIN,
Manager.

Hongkong, 18th December, 1883. [943]

YACHT RACE.

A RACE for ALL YACHTS under 10 Tons, to be Handicapped by Mr. H. J. H. TRIPP, will be sailed on SATURDAY NEXT, the 29th instant, starting from off the GOVERNMENT COAST SHEDS, Kowloon, at Two P.M.

PRIZE, A HANDSOME CUP, presented by Mr. TRIPP, who will receive entries up to the EVENING of FRIDAY, the 28th instant.

Hongkong, 24th December, 1883. [933]

CANTON DISTRICT.

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS.

SUNKEN ROCK IN SHAMIAN ANCHORAGE.

NOTICE is hereby given that a Small SUNKEN ROCK, with 74 feet on it at Low Water Springs, has been found to exist in the above Anchorage about 250 yards from the FA-TI Shore, at some distance below the Joss house.

This Rock will be temporarily marked within a few days by a Buoy painted in Black and Red Checkers. From Sunset to Sunrise, a red light will be shown from a sloop.

C. H. PALMER,
Harbour Master.

Approved:
F. E. WOODRUFF,
Commissioner of Customs.

CUSTOM HOUSE,
Canton, December 21st, 1883. [955]

INTIMATION.

SIGNOR ANTONIO CATTANEO, of the CONSERVATOIRE DE BERGAMO and late of the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA COMPANY, has the honor to inform the community that he has arranged to remain in Hongkong, and will give lessons in Music, Singing and the Pianoforte. CHARGES STRICTLY MODERATE.

Address—Messrs. KELLY & WALSH,
Hongkong, 1st March, 1884. [168]

Insurances.

THE STRAITS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Undersigned having been appointed AGENTS of the above Company are prepared to grant Policies on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the world at CURRENT RATES.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.,
Hongkong, 3rd November, 1883. [827]

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000.)

The above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS, &c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN,
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST,
Hongkong, 1st February, 1882. [106]

YANG TSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL (Fully Paid-up).....Tls. 420,000.00

PERMANENT RESERVE.....Tls. 230,000.00

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.....Tls. 318,235.56

TOTAL CAPITAL and ACCUMULATIONS, 31st March, 1883.....Tls. 968,235.56

DIRECTORS,
F. D. HITCH, Esq., Chairman.

C. LUCAS, Esq., Wm. MEYERINK, Esq.,
A. J. M. INVERARITY, Esq., G. H. WHEELER, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI.
Messrs. RUSSELL & Co., Secretaries.

LONDON BRANCH.
Messrs. BARING BROTHERS & Co., Bankers.

RICHARD BLACKWELL, Esq., Agent,
68 and 69, Cornhill, E.C.

POLICIES granted on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World.

Subject to a charge of 12 per cent. for Interest on Shareholders' Capital, all the PROFITS of the UNDERWRITING BUSINESS are annually distributed among all Contributors of Business (whether Shareholders or not) in proportion to the premia paid by them.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 25th May, 1883. [83]

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED).

CAPITAL TAELS 600,000, EQUAL \$833,333.33.

RESERVE FUND.....\$70,858.27.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
LEE SING, Esq., LEE YAT LAU, Esq.,
LO YZOK MOON, Esq., CHU CHIK NUNG, Esq.

MANAGER—HO AMEL.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the world.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST,
Hongkong, 1st September, 1883. [570]

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

A SECOND and FINAL BONUS of Five per cent. on Contributions and a DIVIDEND of EIGHTEEN DOLLARS and TWENTY-NINE CENTS per SHARE for the year 1883, will be Payable on MONDAY, the 2nd instant.

Warrants may be had on application at the Office of the Society on and after that date.

By Order of the Board,
DOUGLAS JONES,
Acting Secretary.

Hongkong, 22nd October, 1883. [794]

Notices of Firms.

GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

FROM To-day's Date I have taken over the MANAGEMENT of this Company's Station at Hongkong.

IWAN BERNER,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 19th December, 1883. [944]

NOTICE.

I HAVE this day established myself in this Colony as a SHARE and GENERAL BROKER.

S. A. JOSEPH.

Hongkong, 12th December, 1883. [924]

NOTICE.

I HAVE this day commenced Business at the Port of KLUINGCHOW as MERCHANT and COMMISSION AGENT.

R. E. BRUCE.

Kluingchow, 20th November, 1883. [903]

To be Let.

TWO ROOMS at No. 14, YEE WO STREET, East Point. For Particulars, enquire on the Premises.

Hongkong, 7th December, 1883. [914]

TO LET.

THE PREMISES now occupied by us, No. 11, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

For further Particulars, apply to Messrs. RUSSELL & Co.

GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.,
Hongkong, 1st August, 1883. [607]

TO LET.

"BISNEE VILLA" Pokfulam, Furnished.

No. 55, PRAYA CENTRAL.

Apply to DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,
Hongkong, 17th December, 1883. [17]

For Sale.

CHRISTMAS, 1883.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
have received, and have now on view,
A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF

CHRISTMAS DELICACIES,
ARTICLES SUITABLE FOR PRESENTS, AND
FANCY GOODS.

Comprising—

REAL TURTLE SOUP.
SALMON CUTLETS.
KIPPERED SALMON.

HERRINGS A LA SARDINES.
SARDINES AU CITRON.
HERRINGS IN WHITE WINE.

MACKEREL IN WHITE WINE.
FRENCH TRUFFLES.
ASSORTED ENGLISH PATTIES.

PATE DE FOIE GRAS.
TRUFFLED CHICKENS IN JELLY.
FRENCH TINNED LARKS.

ASSORTED FRENCH PATES.
ASPARAGUS.
PETITS POIS.

CHAMPIGNONS.
PUDDING & SULTANA RAISINS.
PEEL FOR MINCEMEAT.

CHRISTMAS HAMS.
CHRISTMAS CAKES.
PLUM PUDDINGS.

RUFF STILTONS.
PORT DU SALUT CHEESE.
GORGONZOLA CHEESE.

DOUBLE GLOSTER CHEESE.
FRENCH PLUMS.
FRUITS IN NOUVEAU AND BRANDY.

CRYSTALLIZED FRUITS.
ELVA'S PLUMS.
MUSCATEL RAISINS.

BARCELONA & BRAZIL NUTS.
BEST FRENCH CONFECTIONERY.
BONBONS & DRAJES.

BONBONNIERS FOR XMAS TREES.
FRENCH CHOCOLATES.
NEWEST COSAQUES & CRACKERS.

FRENCH & ENGLISH TOYS.
MECHANICAL TOYS.
ELECTRIC TOYS.

FRENCH & ENGLISH DOLLS.
OUT-DOOR GAMES.
XMAS & NEW YEAR CARDS.

JEWEL CASES.
FANCY PIPES & CIGAR TUBES.
FITTED TRAVELLING BAGS.

WORK BAGS & BASKETS.
PERFUME CASES.
NEW EMBOSSED STATUARY.

AFTERNOON TEA SERVICES.
TETE-A-TETE SETS.
CHINA FIGURES & VASES.

CHILD LAMPS IN NEWEST DESIGNS.
CHILDREN'S ANNUALS.
PRESENTATION BOOKS.

CABINET & ALBUMS.
MENU & GUEST CARDS.
OSLER'S ARTISTIC CHINA & GLASS.

WARE.
FLOWER BRACKETS & BASKETS.
PRETTY TEA & COFFEE SETS.

FLOWER STANDS.
TABLE DECORATIONS, LATEST DESIGNS & SHADES.

A HANDSOME DRAWING ROOM FOUNTAIN.
NEW ELECTRO-PLATED WARE.
COFFEE & TEA SERVICES.

CUP & BOWLS & HELPERS.
BERGONES.
FLOWER FRUIT STANDS.

NEW CENTRE PIECES.
DESSERT SETS.
WATCHER'S ROYAL CHARTER CHAMPAGNE.

DEUTZ & GELDERMANN'S GOLD LACK CHAMPAGNE.

LEMOINE'S VIN BRUT CHAMPAGNE.
SPARKLING MOSELE.
DRY SHERRIES.

CHOICE BORDEAUX WINES.
AFTER-DINNER PORT.
BURGUNDIES.

LIQUEUR BRANDIES & WHISKIES.
LIQUEURS.
LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Hongkong, 3rd December, 1883. [902]

CHRISTMAS, 1883.

As the above Festival is approaching, the Undersigned begs to inform the Community of Hongkong that he is PREPARED to SUPPLY CHRISTMAS CAKES of the Best Quality, weighing from 1lb. to 10lbs, READY ON HAND, or made to order, any weight.

Also,
MINCE PIES, Assorted TARTS, CAKES,
FRENCH BISCUITS, and RUSKS.

D. NOWROJEE,
Bank Buildings.

Hongkong, 24th December, 1883. [956]

XMAS! XMAS! XMAS!!!

KOCH & Co.,
Nos. 15 & 17, POTTINGER STREET.

THE LATEST NOVELTY OUT.

AUTOMATIC WATER FOUNTAINS.

COME AND SEE, AND SATISFY YOURSELVES.

THE latest invention of the age, suitable for Parlours, Drawing Rooms or Conservatories. No Small or Smoker No Danger!!! These WATER FOUNTAINS are the result of a long series of scientific experiments; only just arrived at the acme of perfection. The motor power consists of a miniature engine propelled by hot air generated by a spirit lamp. The force of the engine is sufficient to raise a jet of water several feet in the air, being regulated, as far as ten feet, by the raising or lowering of the flame of the lamp. It takes but a few minutes to set the machine in motion. No special attention required, save to trim the lamp, once in 24 hours. The Fountains are of tasteful design and are arranged for the reception of aquatic plants, or an aquarium, to suit the pleasure of the possessor, and are made as strong and durable as iron, glass, and wood can make them. Will last a lifetime and cannot get out of order. Call and Satisfy Yourself.

KOCH & Co.,
Nos. 15 & 17, Pottinger Street.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1883. [923]

NOW READY AND FOR SALE.

PRICE Y. FRASER SMITH.

A COMPLETE REPORT OF THE LIREL TRIAL.

COPIES, PRICE TWENTY CENTS, may be obtained at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH, W. BRADLEY and THE NOVELTY STORE, also at the Office of

"THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH,"
Hongkong, 7th December, 1883.

FOR SALE.

G. H. MUMM & Co.'s CHAMPAGNE.

QUARTS.....\$22 per Case.

PINTS.....\$23 per Case.

Apply to MELCHERS & Co.,
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1882. [16]

FOR PRIVATE SALE.

THE well-known Business of BROWN JONES & Co., Undertakers, Including STOCK-IN-TRADE, &c.

Apply to GEO. STAINFIELD,
No. 6, Queen's Road East,
Hongkong, 18th December, 1883. [942]

FOR SALE.

GOOD BORDEAUX CLARET.....\$3.50.

In Cases of 1 doz. Quarts at.....

WOLFE SCHIEDAM-SCHNAPPS.....\$6.00.

In Cases of 12 Bottles at.....

Some PRIME HOLLAND Jenever in Stone Bottles, and some POMERANZ Bitters.

Double Barreled Breech Loading GUNS, RIFLES, REVOLVERS, CARTRIDGES and SHOT, &c., &c.

Very Fresh ITALIAN CONDENSED MILK in Cases of 4 Dozens, at \$6.50 per Case.

J. F. SCHEFFER,
21 and 23, Pottinger Street.

Hongkong, 16th November, 1883. [862]

J. AND R. TENNENT'S ALE AND PORTER.

DAVID CORSAIR & SONS' MERCHANT NAVY NAVY BOILED LONG FLAX CROWN ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.

Hongkong, 15th June, 1881. [466]

WILLIAM DOLAN, SAIL-MAKER & SHIP-CHANDLER, 22, PRAYA CENTRAL.

COTTON DUCKS, HEMP CANVAS, MANILA ROPE, AMERICAN OAKUM, LIFE BUOYS, CORK JACKETS, &c., &c., &c.

Hongkong, 6th December, 1883. [909]

RODERICK DHU WHISKY.

A PURE Fine Flavoured Blend, Equal in Bouquet and Style to the FINEST FRENCH BRANDY.

SOLE AGENT FOR HONGKONG, C. L. THEVENIN, Hongkong Hotel Building, Hongkong, 19th October, 1883. [767]

C. L. THEVENIN, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT, HONGKONG HOTEL BUILDING, HAS FOR SALE.

A FINE ASSORTMENT OF WHITE AND RED BURGUNDIES, GRAND HERMITAGE, CHAMBERTIN, POMMARD, RICHEBOURG, CHABLIS, PINTS and QUARTS.

OLD PORT, SHERRY, WHISKEY, COGNAC, ASSORTED LIQUORS AND SYRUPS, PERFUMERY, &c., &c., &c.

Hongkong, 17th October, 1883. [780]

G. FALCONER & CO. WATCH AND CHRONOMETER MANUFACTURERS AND JEWELLERS.

NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS, CHARTS AND BOOKS.

No. 45, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL. [471]

HONGKONG TIMBER YARD, WANCHAI.

OREGON PINE SPARS AND LUMBER ALWAYS ON HAND.

L. MALLORY, Proprietor.

Hongkong, 24th June, 1881. [501]

CHS. J. GAUPP & CO. CHRONOMETER, WATCH, AND CLOCK-MAKERS, JEWELLERS, SILVER-SMITHS, AND OPTICIANS.

CHARTS AND BOOKS, NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS.

For Louis' Anderson's Watch; awarded the highest Prizes at every Exhibition; and for Voligtlander and Sohn's CELEBRATED OPERA GLASSES, MARINE GLASSES, and SPYGLASSES.

No. 38, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL. [478]

TRANSLATIONS FROM JAPANESE PAPERS.

A rumour is current that the Government are desirous of reducing the number of National Banks to about fifty.

The cost of laying the telegraph cable between Japan and Korea is 78,500 yen, and of this sum the Korean Government offer to pay 30,500 yen.

A rumour is current that His Excellency Inouye has been appointed Minister to England, and that Mr. Mori, now in London, will succeed him as Foreign Minister.

His Imperial Highness Prince Arisugawa was on foot a subscription for the relief of the sufferers by the recent great earthquake in Italy, and about 6,000 yen were collected in Tokio.

It is a fact that the Finance Minister has recommended the Government to raise a loan of 25,000,000 yen at 6 per cent. The idea is to spend this money in railways, and other public works.

Mr. Yoshida, assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, is engaged in the settlement of the Nagasaki trouble, and it is said that if he manages the matter satisfactorily he will succeed Mr. Inouye as Foreign Minister.

As it is supposed that many of the manuscripts preserved as writings of Emperors and Empresses are forgeries, the Household Department will make a critical examination of all these documents and ascertain which of them are genuine.

On the 5th ultimo a terrible storm was experienced at the Ogasawara Islands. At Chichi Jima, the principal island, 35 houses, including the official buildings, were destroyed, and great numbers of trees were blown down. The wind was even more violent on the other islands.

Yokkaichi Isd. is a good port for shipping, and the authorities of Miyu Ken desire to construct a large wharf to give vessels greater facilities for loading and discharging cargo. The estimated cost of the undertaking is 160,000 yen, and of this sum it is proposed that the inhabitants of Yokkaichi and Kuwana shall contribute 60,000 yen, other places in Miyu Ken 40,000 yen, and that the local treasury provide the remainder.

A correspondent in Seoul informs us that when the Korean Government wished to introduce a copper coinage a short time ago the project was strenuously opposed by several officials of great influence, and the scheme abandoned for the present. Paper money will, it is thought, now be issued instead. Preparatory to coining copper the Government made large purchases of that metal from the Japanese, but as they have met with little success, they are now endeavouring to meet the expected demand have lost about 200,000 yen on the speculation.—*Hirogo News*.

It is reported that the *Fuso Kan* is under orders to sail for Annam.

H.H. Shotai, ex-King of the Riukiu Islands, will shortly return to his native country.

The Government, in order to encourage marine insurance business, will subsidize 400,000 yen toward the capital—yen 500,000—of the Tokyo Marine Insurance Company, which will shortly establish agencies at Kobe, Hakodate, and Niigata.

The accounts of the various departments and offices will be kept with great strictness in future. The receipts for every payment, even of two or three sen, are to be submitted to the Council of State in order to obtain the exact verification of the expenditure.

A Korean officer named Kim Ok-kyun, who came to Japan to purchase sailing ships for his Government, paid a visit to H.E. Inouye one day and requested the Minister to lend him the necessary funds. His Excellency refused to make the advance. Whereupon the Korean diplomatist said that he would go to some other country and raise the money. Since this he has not visited the Minister, and even refrained from attending the celebration of the Emperor's birthday, notwithstanding a cordial invitation.

Admiral Kawamura, Minister of Marine, has caused a strict investigation to be made into the cause of the death of twenty men from fever on board the *Ryūjo Kan* on the occasion of her last foreign voyage. He expressed great sorrow for the loss of the men, and ordered those responsible to take precautionary measures to prevent the recurrence of such an event. Bad notions are alleged to have been the cause of the fever. Accordingly, the Minister has issued instructions that, though economy is necessary, it must not be practised at the cost of health.

A report from Sado says that a great reform has been introduced into mining operations there. Hitherto twenty-five pits have been worked, and one thousand men were constantly employed. All but five pits have been closed, and many men have been dismissed. The number of regions has also been reduced. Altogether, the output looks as desolate as if a fire had passed over it. Three-tenths of the inhabitants were engaged in trade, manufacture, and agriculture, and all the rest in the mining business. The consequence of the closing of the mines has been the impoverishment of the Sado islanders. The police are preparing for any outbreak that may occur. The rate of wages of the miners still employed has been reduced twenty per cent.

The following intelligence has been received from Korea.—A Chinese officer, by name Osoro, in the service of the Korean Government, is exerting himself to introduce the Christian religion into Korea. He forwarded a Chinese translation of the Bible to the Foreign Office, and explained to the officers that it does not reveal a corrupt religion. They were all horrified at finding that a believer in Christianity was in the service of their Government. The Chief Commissioner for Foreign Affairs threatened to memorialize the King to expel the Chinese officer, who only escaped through the influence of the Prince Mian. New coins have made their appearance in large quantity since the Spring. The prices of various articles have considerably advanced, that is to say, the new coins have depreciated. People do not like the new money, and decline to receive it otherwise than at a considerable discount. This is opposed to the intention of the Government, which has posted notices throughout the provinces ordering the Koreans to offer every facility for the circulation of the new coinage. Japanese trade shows no sign of improvement in Inchon. Koreans and Japanese continue to quarrel, and to dishonour the part of Japanese traders, according to the Koreans, resort to all sort of chicanery. If Koreans buy imports with gold bullion, they lose at least ten per cent. at the outlet. Indeed, they encounter a loss of from ten to one hundred per cent. on every transaction. Hence, the decline in the trade.—*Japan Mail*.

JUDGE DENNY'S DEPARTURE.

The Consular body held a meeting yesterday afternoon, (4th inst.), and presented the following, which was read by Mr. Hughes, H.B.M.'s Consul, to Judge Denny, the United States Consul-General, on the occasion of his retirement from the post as doyen of the Consular Body. Judge Denny leaves for the United States on Sunday next per s.s. *Hiroshima Maru*.—*Shanghai*, 12th December, 1883.

O. N. DENNY, Esq., Consul-General of the United States.

Dear Colleague,—On the occasion of your leaving Shanghai for the purpose of visiting your native land, we avail ourselves of the opportunity to express our high appreciation of the able manner in which you have discharged the duties of doyen of the Consular Body at this port. We have witnessed with you have never spared pains or trouble in the performance of a task which was specially onerous during your recent tenure of office. We have witnessed how, by the exercise of good sense and sound judgment, you have dealt satisfactorily with the most difficult questions, while you have at the same time always acted in harmony with your colleagues. We thank you warmly for the kindness and courtesy which we have always received from you, and for your ready compliance with every suggestion which seemed likely to conduce to the good of the public and the prosperity of the foreign settlements.

With our best wishes for the health and happiness of yourself and family, and trusting we may soon have the pleasure of welcoming your return, We have the honour to be,

Very faithfully yours,

P. J. HUGHES, H.B.M.'s Consul.

J. E. REDING, H.I.R.M.'s Consul.

LÜHRSEN, H.I.G.M.'s Consul-General.

MANUEL GINART, Act. Consul for Spain.

E. SHINAGAWA, Consul-General for Japan.

O. DE LAGERHEIM, Act. Consul-General for Sweden and Norway.

H. SERRUYS, Consul-General for Belgium.

CARL JANTZEN, H.N.M.'s Acting Consul.

GUST. V. KREITNER, Acting Consul-General for Austria-Hungary.

J. J. KESWICK, Acting Consul for Denmark.

H.M. LAURENCE DE LALANDE, Général de France.

LODOVICO POZZENZI, Acting Italian Consul General.

Mr. Denny, in reply to the address, spoke as follows:—

P. J. HUGHES, Esq., H.B.M.'s Consul, and Dear Colleagues,—

The cordial wish in which you have expressed, on the eve of my departure, your approval of my course as a colleague and doyen of the Consular Body, is as surprising to me as it is gratifying. While in conducting the public business I have always endeavoured to pursue that course which would lead to the best and most satisfactory results, yet whatever success my efforts may have met with is due rather to your good counsel and undivided support than to any efforts of my own. I may be permitted to add, however, that during my experience in the Consular service, I have never attempted to advance the interests of my Government or of the subjects of its citizens at the expense of other nationalities, believing, as I do, that the interests of the American citizens are best promoted when the rights of all foreigners are secured under the treaties, treating at the same time with exact justice the people of this great Empire. And this shall continue to be my aim when I again return and resume those social and official relations with you which have always been attended with so much pleasure and unanimity. In conclusion, I have to especially thank you for the good wishes expressed for the health and happiness of myself and family, and to assure you of my highest esteem and friendship.—*Shanghai Mercury*.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ADMIRALTY.

THE STEAMSHIP "PEKING" v. THE "MOUNT LABANON," AND THE "MOUNT LABANON" v. THE "PEKING."

His Lordship the Chief Justice, Sir George Phillpotts, delivered the following judgment in these cross actions this morning, the 11th inst. Mr. J. J. Francis, instructed by Messrs. Breton, Wotton, and Deacon, appeared for the owners of the *Peking*, and Mr. Alfred G. Wise, instructed by Messrs. Sharp, Toller and Johnson, for the *Mount Labanon*. Lieutenant G. W. Balliston, R.N., acted as nautical assessor.

These were cross actions brought by one vessel against the other for damage resulting from collision, and were consolidated by consent, in order to save the expense of trying them separately. The collision occurred in the Canton River about 2.17 on the morning of the 18th of September. It was agreed by both parties that it was a fine, clear, calm moonlight night. The *Mount Labanon* was a sailing vessel, and was going up the river on the flood side without any sail set, but using the motive power of a steam launch, which was lashed alongside her port quarter, and the *Peking* was a steamer coming down. It is admitted that the *Mount Labanon* was on the wrong side of the channel. According to the rules for navigation of narrow channels, and that the lights she carried were not in accordance with the regulations in regard to lights to be carried by steamers having vessels in tow.

According to the statements made in the preliminary action, put in on the part of the *Peking*, the *Mount Labanon* was first seen by the *Peking* at about 12 miles distant, and about half a point on the port bow of the *Peking*. Two red lights and one white light were then seen; after that, one green light; and that when about a cable length off and about 3 points off on the port bow the *Mount Labanon* put her helm hard a starboard and steamed across the bows of the *Peking*. The helm of the *Peking* was immediately ported, and a moment after the jib-boom of the *Mount Labanon* first came into contact with the *Peking*. According to the statements made in the preliminary action, put in on the part of the *Mount*

Labanon, the *Peking* was first seen by the *Mount Labanon* about one mile distant, and bearing about 2 points on the starboard bow. The mast-head and green lights were then seen; afterwards all three lights were seen, and then the red and mast-head lights only. The steam whistle of the launch was blown three times, and when the collision was imminent the engines of the steam launch were stopped and reversed full speed.

In the Petition, the preliminary act, put in on the part of the *Peking*, is somewhat enlarged upon, and the following account is given of the collision:—According to the statements made, the *Peking* left Canton on the 18th September, having on board a licensed pilot, one Theodore Wm. Drewes who took charge of the navigation of the vessel. At about 2 a.m., it being nearly slack water, the *Peking* was abreast of the Whampoa beacon going down the river at the rate of about 9 knots; about 10 minutes later two red lights and one white light were seen to the S.E. about 1 point on the port bow, and distant about 12 miles. That those lights turned out to be the lights of the *Mount Labanon* coming up the river in tow of a steam launch. Upon seeing the lights, the helm of the *Peking* was put to port half a point, thus bringing the lights of the *Mount Labanon* at the least on the port bow. The steamer *Peking* proceeded on her new course for about five minutes longer, heading now S.E. by S. by steering compass, and on such a course that the two vessels could have passed each other in perfect safety but for an improper manoeuvre on the part of the *Mount Labanon*. That the *Mount Labanon* when at a distance of about 2 cables length from the *Peking*, and bearing from 2 to 3 points on the port bow of the *Peking*, suddenly starboarded, showing her green light, and steered a course right across the bows of the steamer. The helm of the *Peking* was at once put hard to port as the best means of avoiding the collision which then appeared imminent, but that about one minute afterwards the *Mount Labanon* ran into the *Peking*, striking her amidships on the port side. The engines of the *Peking* were at once stopped and reversed, and at 2.30 a.m. the *Peking* was stopped and anchored. In the reply it is set out also more fully than in the preliminary action, the *Mount Labanon's* account of the collision. It is alleged that on the 18th of September the *Mount Labanon* was proceeding up the Canton River with a flood tide, on her way from Hongkong to Whampoa, in charge of a steam launch, which was lashed to the *Mount Labanon's* port quarter. That about 2.25 a.m. the *Mount Labanon* was opposite Escape Creek, some distance below the fishing stakes, when a green light was seen, by those on board about one mile distant and about 2 points on the starboard bow, which turned out to be the light of the *Peking*. That a few minutes afterwards the *Peking* ported and showed her 3 lights. The whistle of the steam launch was blown 3 times at short intervals. The *Peking* continued to port until she had shut out her green light, and the master of the *Mount Labanon*, seeing that the *Peking* was coming right across the bows of the *Mount Labanon*, and that a collision was imminent, gave orders for the engines of the steam launch to stop and go full speed astern, but that almost immediately the *Peking* ran into the *Mount Labanon*, striking her with her port side from about midships, and doing damage to her starboard bows and her gear.

Two more different accounts of the circumstances attending the same collision it is almost impossible to conceive, and in endeavouring to ascertain the true state of the facts, I have to lament to adopt Lord Gilmor's words in the case of the *Amn*, the great difficulty which is imposed upon me in this case is that the collision is a *decide* between the conflicting and contradictory evidence of the parties. In most collision cases it is perhaps unavoidable. The event generally takes place suddenly and unexpectedly. In the midst of the hurry, confusion and alarm which it ordinarily occasions there is no opportunity for calm observation of what is occurring, and when afterwards an endeavor is made to recall the circumstances in their minutest details, the sudden and hasty view of them which alone was possible, together with the natural bias of the human mind to put a favorable construction upon its own acts, combine to present to the parties opposite impressions which they believe to be recollections of what actually occurred. These observations will tend to remove from the witnesses in most of these cases the imputation of deliberately giving a false account of what passed before their eyes, but the result is often no less embarrassing and perplexing to those who have to find their way to the truth through the conflict and contradiction of the evidence. The evidence in this case, however, is like the pleadings, so entirely opposite in its nature that it is difficult to resist the conclusion, making all due allowance for the circumstances usually attending a collision, that one side or other must have wilfully misrepresented facts. Assisted by the nautical assessor I had the opportunity in addition to the oral evidence given on both sides of having the evidence explained by the witnesses by reference to charts of the river, and their courses were marked by each of the masters on the chart, and nearly all the witnesses illustrated their evidence by the use of models and drawings on the black-board, and I think, and I am so advised, that the evidence given by the captain and other witnesses on behalf of the *Peking* was of a more reliable nature than that given by the other side. It was consistent throughout and without contradictions; times and distances agreed, and in some instances were corroborated by the evidence of those on board the *Mount Labanon*. The *Peking* was in charge of an experienced pilot, who unfortunately, however, could not be called as a witness. She was pursuing, according to the account given by all the witnesses, what I find to be the usual and proper course for vessels of her class coming down the river, and was on her right side of the channel. It was also the most direct and natural course for her to pursue in order for her to go down the middle of the channel leading to the bar, and by pursuing the course that it is alleged she did, the pilot would have the advantage of knowing exactly where he was on the river, and the tide pole which has been added to by the witnesses on both sides. Besides this, the damage done to both vessels corresponds to the description of the way in which the collision occurred, and so do the movements of the vessels after the collision.

The evidence given by Captain Nelson and his witnesses is by no means satisfactory, as there are numerous contradictions in it. Besides this, according to the evidence given on the part of the *Mount Labanon*, the *Peking* was in a position immediately before the collision, where she had no object in being, completely out of her course in the track, as the witnesses for the *Mount Labanon* themselves say, of all the junk on the river, both going up and coming down, and if the *Peking's* course was altered in the manner alleged by those on board the *Mount Labanon*, it could never have altered in the manner mentioned, with no other object than that of unnecessarily crossing the bows of the *Mount Labanon*. Putting the *Peking* at the point marked L on the chart, she would have gone completely out of her course to make for the point M, where the collision is said to have occurred, without any object except, apparently, to risk the safety of the vessel, and I do not think she could have passed on the other side of the *Mount Labanon* in the manner she is alleged to have done. But ac-

cording to the pleadings, as well as the evidence, the *Mount Labanon* must have been considerably higher up the river than marked by the master on the chart, inasmuch as in the reply it is stated that the *Mount Labanon* was opposite Escape Creek some distance below the fishing stakes when the green light, about one mile distant and 2 points on the starboard bow, was first seen. This would also be about the position, if the master's evidence that he went about a mile after leaving Nimrod Creek before he saw the *Peking's* light is correct, and the sampan man, the only man on board apparently who had any local knowledge of the river and who was admittedly steering at the time—distinctly starboard, adhered to his statement that the tide-pole and fishing stakes were passed before the collision. If this be the case, then it is clear that the account given by the master of the *Mount Labanon* of the position of the different vessels in the river as well as of their relative positions, inasmuch as they must be discarded, and very much importance cannot be attached to the bearings alleged to have been taken by the master of the *Mount Labanon*, bearings which it would be very difficult to take accurately, as I am advised, even although it was a bright moonlight night, with an ordinary compass, and which are manifestly incorrect in accordance with the case originally set up by the *Mount Labanon* and the distance run from Nimrod Creek and the evidence of the sampan man.

If, then, we put the *Mount Labanon* on the point marked C, where she is alleged to have been first seen by the *Peking*, which is in accordance with what I have already pointed out, the bearings of the *Peking's* lights as stated by the witnesses for the *Mount Labanon* would put her over the North or East Bank of the river, quite out of her course, and she would be going to the tide-pole. It is quite possible that the *Peking* might have got into this position, but it is so improbable, that I should require much more clear and reliable evidence upon this point. There is nothing in the contradictory evidence of the master and crew of the *Mount Labanon* to induce me as against the clear, and in the main reliable evidence on the part of the *Peking* to credit it. Assuming, however, the statement of the witnesses for the *Mount Labanon* to be correct, viz., that they saw the green light of the *Peking* on their starboard bow, and subsequently that they saw the red light, so close that a collision was imminent, I should not consider the *Mount Labanon's* first account of the collision to be correct. The *Mount Labanon* was, according to the case set up for her, proceeding up the river at a slow speed of 2 to 3 knots, in charge of a steam launch lashed to her port quarter, on a flood tide. It was more important therefore that she should be kept to her own side of the channel than if she had been really a steamer; for, although she had the motion of a steamer, she could not be considered as manageable as one. It would be difficult for her to get out of the way of a steamer coming down the river at a fast speed. The captain states that he did not know any such rule for the navigation of narrow channels as that contained in Article 21 of the Regulations of 1879, and that the *Mount Labanon* had been acquainted with Article 21, which was promulgated in those very Regulations for the first time; but apart from this, it was admitted by those on board the *Mount Labanon* that the red light of the *Peking* was seen at a distance of, variously estimated at from 1 to 2 miles, and that a considerable interval of time, 2 minutes according to the master's statement, elapsed before the collision. Assuming the distance only to have been 2 miles, I think that his proper course would have been to have ported instead of going astern, and I am advised that if he had so done, he would have avoided all risk of collision. According to the case set up for the *Mount Labanon*, however, although upon her own showing she would not have been free from blame, the *Peking*, of course, having the *Mount Labanon's* green light on her starboard bow, had no right to attempt to cross that vessel's bows, even although the *Mount Labanon* was on the wrong side of the Channel. They would, therefore, if the evidence on the part of the *Mount Labanon* were reliable, which, as I have before stated, I think it is not, be both to blame.

With regard to the *Peking's* account of the matter, I must observe that the positions of the vessels and courses marked upon the chart cannot be accepted, nor were they put forward as strictly accurate. I had some difficulty from the positions of the vessels marked on the chart, in seeing how the witnesses could make out that they saw the *Mount Labanon's* lights on their starboard bow when they first caught sight of her, and so clearly as to have the whole of her broadside exposed so that they could see the steam launch on her port quarter, but a slight variation in the position and the courses of the vessels would, in my opinion, and in the opinion of the nautical assessor, agree with the witnesses' description of the bow on which they saw the *Mount Labanon* and her bearings on that bow.

I do not concur with the master, however, in his opinion that the *Mount Labanon* could only see her green light on the point marked P, by him marked on the chart, as the contrary, considering the bend of the river, I think it quite possible that those on board the *Mount Labanon* did see first her green light, then the three lights together, and then the red light, but it would have been on their port, and not on their starboard bow. If they did so see those lights, it is quite possible that the people on the *Mount Labanon*, upon so finding them, and not taking into account the navigation of the river, might have become alarmed and considered there was danger when, in fact, all risk had ceased. I think it is probable that both vessels were making in the direction of the tide-pole, and that the *Mount Labanon*, being moonlight night, and unless their attention was wholly occupied by the lights, they must have seen distinctly the position of the two ships on the river in respect of one another, apart from the lights altogether, and that as the *Peking* was steering by the land and not by compass, that she was very likely coming round the bend of the river slightly under the influence of a port helm. I can give no explanation, however, of the *Peking* seeing the green light of the *Mount Labanon* before the steam launch was seen, unless it be that the sampan man was putting his head inshore a little in order to make out the tide pole, which, I think, was not improbable, for although he states he had passed it before the collision, he does not say how long before the collision he had seen it. Accepting the account given on the part of the *Peking* as being substantially correct, I cannot consider her free from blame in the matter.

It is admitted in the Petition that it was about a minute after the *Peking's* helm was put hard to port after seeing the green light that the collision took place, and the evidence goes to show it was if anything more than a minute between sighting the green light and the collision. I consider, and am so advised, that the first impulse of the master of the *Peking*, namely, to stop and reverse, was the correct thing to do under the circumstances, and when the Pilot first saw the *Mount Labanon* starboarded, knowing how close he himself was to the West Bank and how completely unmanageable the approaching vessel was, and more especially when he heard the three whistles of the steam launch, I think he should have reversed his engines promptly to full speed astern. Had he

done so and put his head to starboard, I think and am advised that there would have been no collision, or even if he did not quite reverse the *Mount Labanon's* stern, the collision would have been slight and the *Mount Labanon* alone to blame. I am advised that if it took a little over a minute to get into the position the *Peking* was in at the time of the collision, had the engines been reversed promptly, it would have taken at least double that time before the *Peking's* head would have been made to go off to port sufficiently to have allowed her to pass under the *Mount Labanon's* stern, and it would under these circumstances have been for the *Mount Labanon* to see that she did not back into the *Peking*, even although her way might not have been completely stopped. The master of the *Peking* was unable to say how long it would take to get the way off the *Peking*, when going to port, but on this very occasion, way was got off her sufficiently to enable her to anchor within two minutes and in a distance of four cables length. I do not think there can be any justification for one vessel to dart across another's bows at a speed of 9 knots under the circumstances mentioned. The only justification as it seems to me, would be success. It is thought the Pilot very nearly succeeded in clearing the *Mount Labanon* on this occasion, and he managed to escape, running on ahead himself, but in my opinion it was a most improper thing for him to have done, and it is almost impossible to conceive any circumstances under which it would have been justifiable to do so. In the present instance, some such have been suggested. With regard to the *Mount Labanon*, I consider that before she threw her head to starboard the ship was in a perfectly safe position, and had they continued their course they would have passed clear of each other. The *Mount Labanon* was the first cause of the collision by throwing herself across the bows of the *Peking* without any cause. If she had not done so before, she did so after she gave the order to go full speed astern, which undoubtedly had the effect of throwing her head to port much more than the master of the *Mount Labanon* was willing to admit; but as I consider the *Peking* was not justified in deliberately running across the bows of the *Mount Labanon*, and as I consider the *Peking* had sufficient time to comply with Art. 18 of the Regulations, and that if she had taken the proper steps she might have avoided the collision altogether, I must hold both vessels to blame. I have not taken any notice of the alleged breach of regulation in respect of lights as contained in Art. 4, as it was admitted that that breach could by no possibility have caused the collision.

It was contended that Art. 21, as to narrow channels cannot apply to the Canton river, and that if it did it could not be insisted on, as it had not been alleged in the pleadings that the *Mount Labanon* was to blame for being on the wrong side. In the view I have taken of the circumstances attending the collision, it is unnecessary for me to notice these points. I think it right, however, to state that in my opinion the Regulations, as to the binding on English vessels, and vessels belonging to the foreign nations mentioned in the Second Schedule to the Order in Council, in all parts of the world, and they apply to such vessels in the Canton river as much as they would apply to vessels in the Thames, if no special Regulations had been made by competent local authority. If it is intended to bring any particular case within any of the exceptions contained in Arts. 21, 23 or 25, the burden of proof is, in my opinion, on the vessel setting up the exception, and this seems to have been so decided in the case of *The Concordia*, S.K., 1 app. cas. 93.

Both vessels having been held to blame, the matter may now be referred, if the parties desire it, to the Registrar and merchants to ascertain the amount of damage which each vessel recovered, in accordance with the Admiralty rules in this respect.

THE BRITISH TREATY WITH COREA.

We (Couriers) are informed that the following are the leading conditions of the treaty between Great Britain and Corea, which was signed at Seoul on the 26th ultimo:—

Article I. provides for Peace and Amity, and for the exercise of good offices in case of these being required by one or other of the contracting powers.

Article II. provides for Diplomatic and Consular representation.

Article III. secures to the British Authorities exclusive jurisdiction in all cases, civil or criminal, brought against British subjects in Corea, either by the Korean Government or Korean subjects, or by any British or other foreign subject, or citizen. Any complaints against foreign persons, or against the British subjects, involving a penalty or compensation for breach of the Treaty or of the Regulations annexed thereto, will also be decided by the British Authorities.

Article IV. opens the ports of Chemulpo (Jenchu, Wonsan (Gensan), and Pusan (Fusan), the City of Hanyang (Seoul), and the town of Yangwachin to British trade. Choice may be made of another port in the neighbourhood of Pusan, and of another town in the neighbourhood of Yangwachin, if those two places should be found unsuitable; but the right to open commercial establishments in Hanyang (the capital) is subject to surrender if the Chinese Government should relinquish that right. At each of the places named, British subjects may rent or purchase land or houses, and may erect docks, wharves, warehouses, and other buildings for the foreign Settlements, are to be selected and laid out by the Korean Government, in conjunction with the competent Foreign Authorities, and will be managed by a Council, the constitution of which will be determined in the same way. British subjects will have full liberty to travel and trade in the interior of the country, and will be amenable to the settlements or elsewhere to such Municipal Police and other Regulations as may be agreed on by the authorities of the two countries.

Article V. gives British subjects the right to import into any Korean open port from any foreign port or any Korean open port all kinds of merchandise (excepting prohibited goods) and to export the same to any Korean open port or to any foreign port. It provides for drawbacks on foreign goods, and for the refund of duty on Korean produce when proved to have been conveyed to a Korean open port. All goods that have once paid the duty of the tariff may be transported to any Korean open port free of duty, or may be conveyed into the interior free of any additional tax, except transit duty whatsoever. Tonnage dues are to be paid at the rate of 30 cents per ton, a single payment, being good for four months; and the whole of the dues to be collected are to be appropriated to the construction of light-houses, beacons, etc., and to the improvement of the anchorage and the approaches to the open ports.

Article VI. relates to smuggling, and any open ports, the penalty being quadrupled of the smuggled goods, as well as the forfeiture of twice their value.

Article VII. relates to the course to be followed in case of shipwreck, or when a British vessel is stranded on the Korean Coast. All salvaged

cargo or property is to be carefully protected, and the wants of the shipwrecked persons fully provided for.

Article VIII. relates to ships of war. They may visit any Korean port, may store supplies at the open ports, and may make surveys of the Coast.

Article IX. sanctions the employment of Korean subjects by British subjects in any lawful capacity.

Article X. is the favoured nation clause, and secures to the British Government and subjects the same privileges that have or may hereafter be granted by the Korean Government to the Government or subjects of any other Power.

Article XI. provides for the revision of the treaty and tariff by mutual consent in ten years.

Article XII. provides that any dispute as to the meaning of the treaty shall be determined by the English text.

The Regulations of Trade annexed to the treaty define the course of procedure in relation firstly, to the entrance and clearance of vessels; secondly, to the landing and shipping of cargo and the payment of duties; and thirdly, to the protection of the revenue.

The Import Tariff in its classified form is arranged under six headings:—

Class I.—Duty free goods—contains agricultural implements, books, bullion, coins, models, packing materials, plants, samples, scientific instruments, travellers' baggage, &c.

Class II., being goods subject to an *ad valorem* duty of five per cent., comprises various raw materials, together with grain, beans and pulse, flour and meal, hides and skins, horns and hoofs, kerosene and mineral oils; metals in pig, sheet, bar, &c.; oil cake, and all manures, drugs and medicines; yarns of all kinds; and all unenumerated articles, raw or unmanufactured.

Class III.—The goods under this head, which are to pay 7½ per cent. *ad valorem*, form the most important class of the tariff. They consist of cotton manufactures of all kinds, cotton and woollen, and cotton and silk mixtures; woollen manufactures of all kinds, and woollen and silk mixtures; linen or linen mixed with cotton wool, or silk; grass cloth, and all textiles in hemp, jute, &c.; clothing or wearing apparel of all sorts; ordinary carpeting, chemicals, dyes, colours, and paints; leather; window glass, plain or colored; metals in pipe, tube, or wire, steel, tin plates, nickel, and copper or other valuable metals; hardware, cutlery, machinery, porcelain, paper, soap, sugar, all qualities, tea, raw silk, and some silk manufactures, soft woods and timber, and all unenumerated articles partly manufactured.

Class IV. comprises goods liable to a duty of ten per cent., and consists of beer and foreign wines, superior carpeting, certain silk manufactures, and clothing made wholly of silk; clocks and watches, in silver; glassware, furniture, leather manufactures, fancy paper, plated ware, pictures, hard woods, various articles of superior make, and all unenumerated articles completely manufactured.

Class V. consists of goods liable to twenty per cent. duty. These are articles of luxury, such as amber, coral, jade, ivory, birds' nests, tortoise shell, embroideries, furs, musk, jewelry, precious stones, velvet, waxes either gold or gilt, firecrackers, tobacco, spirits and liquors, &c.

Class VI., being prohibited goods, consists of adulterated goods or medicines, arms and munitions of war (except when imported under permit), counterfeit coins, and opium (except medicinal opium).

All native produce, except the free list, consisting of refined gold and silver, bullion, gold and silver coins, plants, samples, and travellers' baggage, will pay an *ad valorem* duty of five per cent. The exportation of red ginseng is prohibited.

The above *ad valorem* tariff is to be converted into specific rates as soon as possible by the authorities of the two countries.

Duties may be paid in Mexican dollars or Japanese silver yen.

TIENTSIN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

December 26th, 1883.

In regard to the Secret Decree, it was issued in September last, and no doubt a copy was in M. Tricou's possession when he was in Peking, and it had very likely been received in Europe long before it was published in the Shanghai papers.

I hope the French will take Banchin; if not it will encourage the war party in their boasting that France is afraid to do so. If Banchin is taken the Chinese will then withdraw from the field, but so long as they delay, the Chinese have hopes that they and the Black Flag cannot beat the French troops in Tongking.

Sir Harry Park

3.—A statement of the number of votes given for each Candidate.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient Servant.

W. H. MARSH,

Colonial Secretary.

The Senior Police-Magistrate, Hongkong.

COLONIAL SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 20th December, 1883.

Sir,—You are already aware, that upon the Governor's recommendation, as approved by Her Majesty the Queen, certain changes will be made in the constitution of the Legislative Council and that for the future, one Unofficial Member of that body will, as a general rule, be appointed on the nomination of the Chamber of Commerce.

As it is the intention of His Excellency to summon the reconstituted Council to meet for the despatch of business, so soon as Her Majesty's Order giving formal effect to the reform already approved has been received, it is desirable that the nomination of a Member by the Chamber of Commerce should be made at an early period.

You are, therefore, as Chairman, requested to convene a meeting of the Chamber at an early date, and to invite the Members to make their choice in the manner prescribed by the regulations of the Chamber, and to return to me, for submission to His Excellency, the name of the Member nominated.

The return should be accompanied, for the Governor's information, by—

- (1.) A copy of the notice convening the meeting.
- (2.) A list of the Members present at the meeting.
- (3.) A list of the Candidates with the names of their proposers and seconders.
- (4.) A list of voters.
- (5.) A statement of the number of votes given for each Candidate.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient Servant,

W. H. MARSH,

Colonial Secretary.

The Chairman of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Legislative Council met for the despatch of business at 2.30 on the afternoon of the 18th inst. Present—His Excellency the Governor, Sir George F. Bowen; Hon. Sir Geo. Phillips, Chief Justice; Hon. W. H. Marsh, Colonial Secretary; Hon. E. L. O'Malley, Attorney-General; Hon. A. Lister, Acting Colonial Treasurer; Hon. P. Ryrie, F. B. Johnson, J. M. Price and Dr. Stewart, unofficial members. His Excellency entered the Council room leaning on Mr. Maguire, his private Secretary, and walking lame. The Chief Justice did not arrive until shortly after 3 o'clock.

Before commencing business, the newly appointed Justices of the Peace were sworn in by Mr. Stewart-Lockhart, Clerk of Councils. After the minutes of the last meeting of Council were read and confirmed, His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings by the following remarks:—"Honorable gentlemen of the Legislative Council, as you are already aware, I had not contemplated meeting you again until the Colonial Legislature should have been re-constituted in the manner graciously sanctioned, on my recommendation, by Her Majesty the Queen. In consequence, however, of the arrival of H.M.'s Order in Council formally authorizing the reform already granted having been accidentally delayed, I have summoned you for the consideration of certain votes of public money, and for the despatch of other business of a pressing character, as set forth in the order of the day."

Mr. Marsh then proposed that the following payments authorised in excess of the Estimates of 1883 be passed:—\$200 for watering streets; \$1,636.36, grant to Mr. Colquhoun towards cost of the exploration survey from British Burma to S.W. China, and from the north of Siam down the Monam valley to Bangkok; \$1,335.46 for furniture for Government House; \$1,700 for reconstruction of Wyndham Street sewer, in lieu of the votes approved by the Finance Committee on the 21st June 1883 for surface drains, &c., in Royal Mint and Pennington Streets; \$3,000, building grant to St. Joseph's College; \$3,055.58, for remitting certain missing ordinances; \$100 as a honorarium to the Secretary to the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the circumstances attending the alleged smuggling from Hongkong into China of opium and other goods; \$10, allowance to civil clerk for a Chinese teacher from 1st to 30th November; \$433 for repairs to fire engines, hose, &c., and \$100 for miscellaneous services in connection with roads, streets, and bridges.

The votes were all duly passed by the Council, but Mr. F. B. Johnson drew attention to one, that of \$6,000, as a building grant to St. Joseph's College, sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and pointed out that all grants should be submitted for the consideration of the Legislative Council before being sent home for approval. It was not the practice for any honorable member to vote of speak against any proposal which had received the sanction of the Secretary of State, but unless they were only to register the conclusions of the Secretary of State, all proposals involving the expenditure of public money should come before them first, when every member should be allowed to vote according to his conscience. He was not prepared to offer any objection to the original vote of \$6,000 for St. Joseph's College, but he did object to the extra \$1,000 approved by the Secretary of State. Grants made were all very well so long as an educational test was properly settled, but when there was a sort of concord between the Government and the ecclesiastical authorities it was quite another thing. He would ask whether the Portuguese community were entirely satisfied with the education they received. He knew it was His Excellency's desire that the Council should have control of the public expenditure, and be allowed to vote, and independent discussion.

Mr. Marsh said he was out of the Colony when the Finance Committee meeting was held in which the vote of \$6,000 for St. Joseph's College was recommended. He would, however, the application of the managers of the school to the Secretary of State, his reason for which would be found in a despatch from that official of 18th June, which he would read the following extracts:—"The expenditure upon education from public funds is considerable, but the whole ground is far from covered, and for this reason, if for no other, it is essential both to maintain the existing agencies (i.e. the Central School) and also as far as possible to encourage voluntary efforts. It is also desirable that all grants proposed to be made for the education of Chinese should be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval before any promise is made. He thought it right to submit the application to the Secretary of State, who in reply, said he had no objection to grant \$6,000. On a subsequent report from Bishop Ramsdell, \$6,000 were

granted. He (Mr. Marsh) saw no objection to Mr. Johnson's proposal being adopted.

His Excellency the Governor said he entirely agreed with the hon. member (Mr. Johnson), and that regulations would be introduced under which all votes would be considered in the first instance by the reconstituted Legislative Council.

A remark by Dr. Stewart to the effect that he had no opportunity of finding out what the views of the Portuguese community might be regarding education, closed the discussion initiated by Mr. Johnson.

The Attorney General then introduced the bills for the naturalization of Lai Kong, J. A. Carvalho, Wong Shing, and H. J. Rodrigues, which were read a first time.

Mr. Johnson asked permission to introduce for first reading a bill for the construction of certain piers and wharves in the harbor of Victoria, and a bill to amend the Tramways Ordinance, which was granted, the bills being read a first time. The hon. member then said he gave notice to the Clerk of Council to ask leave to introduce an ordinance to enable Mr. C. P. Chater to construct piers and wharves in the harbor, but he saw no order in the book.

Some discussion hereupon arose between Mr. Johnson, the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General as to the regularity of the proceeding, the required 3 days' notice not having been given, and no notice having been published in the Government Gazette. Mr. Johnson stoutly contending that the notice was in order. The Governor to quorate matters, said he should summon another meeting next week, if that would suit Mr. Johnson. The honorable member persisted in declaring that he was not out of order in introducing the bill, simply to be read a first time, when the Attorney-General pointed out that the procedure was not in accordance with parliamentary rules. His Excellency said he thought the best way would be to appoint a Committee of the Council to revise the rules and assimilate them to parliamentary practice. It was arranged, after some discussion, to have another meeting of Council on Friday week, after the Christmas holidays, when the bill for the piers and wharves to be constructed by Mr. Chater could be brought forward.

THE GOOD TEMPLARS AT THE TEMPERANCE HALL.

The first of a series of quarterly meetings under the auspices of the Order of Good Templars was held last evening (the 18th inst.), in the Temperance Hall. About one hundred members of the order and votaries of temperance principles sat down to a noble spread provided by Mr. Nelson Pugh, the popular manager of the Hall. After the good things had been attended to in downright open-your-shoulders Good Templar fashion, the programme for the evening was duly proceeded with.

The Chair was occupied, in the unavoidable absence of Bro. C. B. Bunker, by Bro. Sergeant Gleeson, who, after apologizing for Mr. Bunker's absence and his own inability to do justice to the position he occupied, remarked that it was expedient for the Good Templars to undertake an aggressive work. They had to consider the numerous counter attractions to which temperance men are constantly exposed in this colony, and it was necessary, under the circumstances, for the Good Templars and their colleagues in the cause of Temperance to exert their utmost endeavours to counteract these attractions and adopt some means whereby the evils of drink might be stopped. For the promotion and wellbeing of the Order it was considered advisable to hold quarterly public meetings, of which this evening's gathering was the first. He hoped this first attempt on their part to provide amusement for a numerous class would lead to good results. To-night's meeting was an experiment, and he would ask the audience to overlook whatever shortcomings there might be in their programme.

Brother Gleeson resumed his seat amidst great applause, and a most excellent programme of musical and dramatic selections was ably gone through by several of the members, Bro. W. Goulbourne kindly and most efficiently presided at the piano. Bro. Charles Howard especially distinguished himself, and was loudly applauded. Taken as a whole the entertainment was a most successful one, and we can honestly congratulate the promoters for what they have already achieved in a good cause.

GRAND FAREWELL TEA MEETING, AND ENTERTAINMENT AT THE TEMPERANCE HALL.

We have sojourned in many lands in both of the torrid and temperate—the frigid we have reserved for the time in the distant future when we shall essay the sublime discovery which greater men than ourselves have perished in attempting, namely, the whereabouts of the mysterious North Pole—have visited many Temperance Halls, and been present at many of the entertainments given by those very useful institutions, but were a bound to confess that we have never yet witnessed a jollier Tea than that given at the Temperance Hall in Queen's Road last evening, the 13th inst. under the auspices of the Royal Naval Temperance Society. We used the term "jollier" to signify that it was a most festive occasion, and that it was a most successful one. "Good Rhine wine," or Rhododendron of Champagne, circulated. There is, in our opinion, a superior kind of jollity, the jollity not born of poisonous alcoholic compounds, but the "pure," calmer jollity which has its source in rational social enjoyment and cheering Bohemian—the veritable "feast of reason and flow of soul." That jollity was realized to the fullest extent last evening by large numbers of our gallant "Tans" and "Sailors," and although we are not teetotalers ourselves, a prolonged residence in the Far East having rendered a "wet drop" essential, on purely medical grounds, of course, yet an effort made to control and restrict the demon of Intemperance, which stalks through the land slaying its victims right and left, will always have our hearty approval and support. It is the fashion of the hard-headed ones who can stow away a hoghead under their "vests" without showing it to any appreciable extent, to sneer at the weaklings whose upper-stories quickly get demolished and lose equilibrium, they should bear in mind that the "Inimitable man" is not possible to every one, and was even beyond the reach of the great Dr. Johnson himself. "Why don't you take a little wine?" said Boswell, on one occasion to the Doctor. "Because I can't, sir," replied the moralist. "When I take wine I always take a good deal, and therefore I take none at all." A certain writer, whose name we forget, has said that there is a glory in the conquest which comes an evil passion, greater and brighter than the sword of Alexander and Caesar ever won, and as Temperance Halls and Temperance Societies are established to aid men in achieving that conquest, they are deserving of all support and encouragement. So long as in-

temperance like a scorching wind sweeps over our native land, blasting it with poverty and crime, disease and death, it behooves every one of us to do what we can to stem the tide of evil. However, we did not sit down to write an essay on Temperance, so we contented ourselves with a few remarks.

The tea meeting last evening was of a two-fold character—a farewell to the men of the fleet going home in the *Orontes* on the 20th, and a reception to their successors, to encourage them to adopt temperance principles, and follow in the footsteps of those of their predecessors who were members of the Royal Naval Temperance Society. The room in the Hall appropriated to entertainments was very gallantly got up for the occasion. The walls from top to bottom were draped throughout with flags of various nations, and from lines hung from pillar to pillar, long lengths and crossways, depended numerous small flags of various colors, used for signalling purposes. The principal staircase was also prettily draped with flags. Over the front of the stage hung a portrait of Miss Agnes Weston, "the seamen's friend," and the stage itself shared in the general adornment. Altogether, the room presented a very pretty, not to say gorgeous appearance, and reflected great credit on the taste of the blue-jackets who ornamented it.

The numerous tables with which the room was crowded, and which literally groined under the abundance of good things set out for the enjoyment of our gallant defenders of both Straits, added much to the beauty of the scene. The tables were tastefully laid out, and on each plate there was a handsome Christmas card and a button-hole flower. The tea was generously provided by a number of lady residents who take great interest in the moral and social welfare of the men of the army and navy, and too much praise cannot be accorded them for the exceedingly tasteful character of the whole of the arrangements. His Excellency Vice Admiral Wiles arrived about half past six, and Lady Bowen and the Hon. Mrs. Bowen shortly afterwards, accompanied by Lieutenant Vyvyan, the Governor's aide-de-camp. As Lady Bowen entered the room, the assembly rose to their feet and sang the national Anthem. Tea was then proceeded with, and was served by the delicate hands of upwards of 20 ladies, the Misses Bowen, Lieutenant Vyvyan, some naval officers, and other gentlemen, also lending a hand in carrying round the fragrant beverage. Lady Bowen, accompanied by Admiral Wiles, went round the several tables, patting a little one here and there, and addressing some words to the men. Between 300 and 400 people sat down to tea, the blue-jackets and Buffs mustering strong. There were also members of the Marines, Royal Artillery and police present, and several military ladies with their children. The room was literally crowded, and additional tables had to be laid out in one of the adjoining rooms. Lady Bowen and party did not remain long. We overheard her ladyship tell a gentleman present that the Governor could not come as he had met with an accident on Tuesday. We hope it was not of a serious nature. Towards the conclusion of the Tea, Mr. James Francis, organizing agent of the Royal Naval Temperance Society, asked Admiral Wiles to say a few words to the men. His Excellency advanced to the top of the room and said:—

"Soldiers, sailors and marines, I am going to ask you to drink the health in a flowing bowl of tea of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, and in doing so, I take the opportunity of bidding the marines and sailors going home—good night, farewell. I wish them a pleasant passage and a happy meeting with their friends. I invite those who lately come out to support by example those who are going away. I consider this is an excellent institution. Drunkenness is the cause of nearly all the crime in the navy, and I dare say also in the army. The soldiers will be encouraged in temperance by the General and their officers. I only address the sailors and marines, and I am sure the members of the Temperance Society will increase considerably. I ask you to drink the health of the Queen, and give Her Majesty the Queen's health."

The toast was duly drunk in sparkling Bohemian, and of cheers being given for Her Majesty, and "one more" for the gallant Admiral, who though evidently not a Demosthenes or a Pope Hennessy in "the gift of the gab," is yet a practical, bluff, kind-hearted old sailor who knows what he's about.

The health of the President of the United States was next proposed by Sergeant Major Gleeson of the Buffs, and duly honored, three rounds of "hip hip hurrah" finishing up the toast. Mr. Haly, R.N., then proposed the health of His Excellency the Governor, the toast receiving like treatment from the Governor, the toast receiving

the gallant Admiral then said he was going to propose another toast, in which he proposed the health of the East Kent men, and he didn't think the East Kents would be very far behind, and that was the health of the kind ladies who had given the entertainment that evening. The toast was drunk with all honors, the fair ones being cheered to the echo.

Mr. Chisham, R.N., next proposed the health of Miss Agnes Weston, and said that no words of his could make her dearer than she already was to the British sailor. She was quite proud of her having carried the Temperance banner to the North Pole. They would be able to fight the battles of the country better without than with alcohol, and they would, moreover, be better husbands, better sweethearts and better men. The toast was duly honored.

Mr. Wright, R.N., the Commodore's Secretary, said he was going to make one little break in Mr. Francis's programme. He would ask them to drink the health of Mr. Francis himself. Many of them were not acquainted with some of those whose healths had been drunk, but they all knew Mr. Francis, and he him for the way in which he took in the welfare of seamen. Let them then, his presence would live long to fulfil his present position. The toast was duly drunk, and three hearty cheers given for the Society's indefatigable organizing agent.

The health of Major General Sargent, proposed by Mr. Haly, R.N., brought the toasts to a close. Three hearty cheers were given for the gallant veteran. The room was then cleared to prepare for the entertainment, which was opened by an address by the chairman, the Rev. Mr. Harper, chaplain of the *Orontes*. The reverend gentleman, in welcoming the new comers, said he thought it right to remember their position as missionaries to this country, influencing for good, or evil, those around them, according as they used their time. He pointed out the evil influences which surrounded them, and told them they had, at all events, one good place on the station where they would be taken care of and always find a home. He hoped and trusted that at the expiration of their commission they would be able to give a good account of how they had spent their time. He asked them to place their trust in God, and then, come what might, they would be able to say they had had a happy commission. The reverend gentleman concluded by again welcoming them to the home of the Hongkong branch of the Society. The remainder of the programme consisted of songs, recitations, duets, glee and also a flute and a cornet solo by men of the Buffs. Several ladies and gentlemen residents took part in the entertainment, which was gone through in a very creditable manner. A farewell address by Mr. Wright

R.N., the Commodore's Secretary, formed an item in the programme. Mr. Wright concluded it by wishing the homeward-bound men, in the name of the homeward-bound men, a safe, speedy and pleasant voyage, and a happy reunion with their friends. Bishop Burdett, in his address, in the course of which he said that it was natural for all, for the young especially, to enjoy life and it was right to do so. God delighted in the happiness of His creatures and seemed to have given them many things only to add to their happiness. We were placed here in the midst of this beautiful world, free to walk in the way that our hearts choose, and free too to think for ourselves. We were no man's slaves. We were God's free children in a glorious world. God wished us to enjoy our freedom and His many gifts. We should not do to do so as responsible beings. "Know thou that all these things God will bring thee into judgment." That was no threat. It did not mean that God was ever going to find fault and store up our faults, with no other thought than to punish us for enjoying His gifts. That would be to set a trap for us. God did no such thing; but He reminded us that we were responsible to Him for the use of all His good things. We were not animals. We were under law to God, as we were under law to man. It was no hardship to be a land where there were strict laws which we were obliged to keep. We counted it a blessing that we were responsible to God for the use of every good thing we had and which so many of us had in such abundance. Let us think of the whole of it, and if God were thrown out of our account, the world would be a very different place. It would always show what denial of God would lead to when every man thought he could do as he pleased. But if we thought God into our life we were free to do as we liked and think as we liked, so long as we formed our plans and our opinions with reference to Him and His will as revealed in Jesus Christ, His Son. This was religion—no gloomy, ascetic thing—but freedom, manliness and the truest enjoyment. The Bishop then gave a few concluding words of advice on the words "Rejoice O young man in thy youth and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth; and walk in the ways of thy heart, and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." He said it was a very much misunderstood. People often thought of it as condemning every thing like enjoyment in life, as if God gave us a beautiful world and then held a tremendous threat over us if we were happy in it. But God was no such tyrant. He gave us powers of mind and body fitted to enjoy it.

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

Queen's Road West, within a short distance of its junction with Gap Street, and some three or four hundred yards eastward of the Civil Hospital, was the scene on Thursday evening, the 20th inst., of a very shocking occurrence, by which three unfortunate Chinamen met with a horrible death. The house No. 72, where the terrible affair occurred, has its first and second floors occupied by Chinese, the third floor being empty. On this floor a number of Chinese, computed at from fifty to a hundred, were collected on the evening in question for the purpose of gambling. Between three and four o'clock police sergeant Butlin, accompanied by another constable and Inspector Clerkew of the Nuisance Department, knowing, as he said, the house to be used as a gambling den by coolies, made a descent on the place with a view of arresting the gamblers. He went the contrary way up the front stairs, while he and Mr. Clerkew went round to the back and ascended to the third floor of No. 72, the next house eastward, the verandahs being separated from each other by a low wall, upon which the people of No. 72 had a wooden structure raised for more effectual privacy. According to his evidence at the Police Court yesterday morning, Sergeant Butlin, hearing a noise in No. 72, looked through the chinks in the wooden verandah partition, and saw a number of men moving about, whereupon he pulled the partition down, and, climbing over the wall, got into the front verandah (3rd floor) of No. 72, where he found a lot of men, some trying to escape by getting out of the partition between the verandahs of No. 72 and 74, others by the staircase, while some endeavored to get through the window of the cookhouse at the back. Twelve of the gamblers were arrested, and a lot of gambling paraphernalia was found in the room, as well as a fighting iron, and four ladders for use, in case of emergency, in getting on to the roof. At least, this was the purpose, the sergeant said they were intended for. Butlin stated that he looked over the verandah of No. 72 and saw two Chinese lying in the street below, apparently dead. He went down and found they were dead; another man was lying on the ground, but quite dead. The three were taken to the Civil Hospital.

So far the sergeant's evidence, which we will now supplement by what we have been able to glean ourselves, having visited the scene of the occurrence, examined the verandah of the house from which the men fell, and made all due enquiries into the terrible business. We should state that two of the men were killed instantly, and the third only lived about half an hour after falling, and never recovered consciousness. Indeed, it would have been a miracle if he had, considering the terrible height from which he fell, the street of 60 feet as ascertained by measure. It made our reporter quite dizzy to look down from the verandah into the street below. It is not quite clear whether the unfortunate men who lost their lives in such a dreadful manner, jumped from the parapet of the verandah into the street through fear of falling into the hands of the police, or were forced over from the corner of the wall separating No. 72 from 74 by the crush resulting from the efforts of the gamblers to escape when they found the police were upon them. Chinamen are, as a rule, very capable of desperate deeds, and it may be that the men actually did take the fatal jump, rather than fall into the hands of the police, though the probability is in favor of the other view. There should, however, be little difficulty in clearing up this point satisfactorily, as some of those in the verandah must have seen what actually occurred. A gentleman who happened to be near the scene of the occurrence at the time, informs us that he saw the three men come over the verandah and then the other in rapid succession, the three appalling descents, but he is unable to say whether the men voluntarily jumped into the street, or were forced over the parapet of the verandah by the crush of the gamblers. A second man fell close alongside the first, and was found lying with his head partly over the other's body, both being lying in the cold wet place of death. The third one fell a few yards distance from the other two. The head of one and the face of another, our informant states, presented a truly shocking appearance, the place around being dyed with the unfortunate men's blood. (The twelve men arrested were yesterday morning at the Magistrate's Court, and the evidence remained the case to this morning.)

An inquest on the bodies was held yesterday afternoon at the Government Civil Hospital, when it was decided that police sergeant Butlin did not enter the house under the authority of

the inquest for the evidence of Captain Dempster, Acting Superintendent of Police, as to the police instructions in such matters. It will be resumed on Thursday next.

Some very grave reflections present themselves in connection with this terrible business, and it is for the authorities to consider whether they are doing their duty to the community by the measures they adopt for the suppression of gambling in the colony, and whether the deaths of these three unfortunate men are not directly due to the *modus operandi* employed. The protection of human life is the first duty of Government, and if, as has been shown by this dreadful occurrence is actually the case, the lives of members of the community are exposed to deadly peril by the measures adopted to carry out the law, it is, we consider, high time that a change were made. Chinese, especially the lower classes, are, as we have already said, liable to panic, and we may at any time have a recurrence of the frightful event of Thursday evening. The police cannot, of course, be blamed for acting according to their orders in the suppression of crime, but we say, the gambling laws altogether from the face of the colony rather than that human life should be so ruthlessly, and, we affirm, unnecessarily sacrificed. It may be said that if people will indulge in vice they are not to be blamed for the resulting consequences; but in such paltry cases as this class of gambling, so general amongst the Chinese, if, we hold, the duty of a Government to take all possible precautionary measures to prevent its subjects from being made victims to their own ignorance and the imperfect carrying out of the law.

The unfortunate men who met with such a frightful death in Queen's Road West on Thursday may be the scum of the native population, but as all men are equal before the law, their lives are just as precious as those of any of our local magnates and aristocrats; and we consider the Government will incur a very serious responsibility indeed if it does not at once take effectual measures to prevent a recurrence of so terrible an event. Looked at from every point of view, it cannot be denied that this horrible tragedy is a sorry business, and we shall look to the Government, in the interests of the community, to see that the matter is thoroughly sifted, without fear or favor to anyone concerned.

HONGKONG PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The distribution of prizes at the above school took place this forenoon, the 22nd inst., at eleven o'clock. His Excellency the Governor, Sir George Bowen, was attended by his A. D. C., Lieut. Vyvyan, presided, Lady Bowen, the Misses Bowen, Mrs. W. H. Marsh, His Lordship the Bishop and Mrs. Burdon, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. MacEwen, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Lamont, Mr. McIver, Mr. A. Lister, Mr. J. B. Coughtrie and several other residents were present.

His Lordship Bishop Burdon opened the proceedings by stating that he would detain them but a short time before His Excellency the Governor addressed them. He would, before entering upon the business for which they were gathered together, like to make a few remarks regarding the history of the college. It was now four years since St. Paul's college first started, and the school might now be regarded as well established. The object of the establishment of St. Paul's college had been evident from the fact that it was a necessity in this place where there were many English children, whose parents did not desire to have them sent home to be educated. The facilities for a thorough English Education in the colony were comparatively few. There were other schools in the place, the Central School and St. Joseph's college, as well as other Portuguese and Chinese schools, but he did not think that they were exactly what was required. His Lordship touched upon the subject of religion in the schools, and stated that it was not the intention of the management of St. Paul's college to mingle the secular with the religious instruction of the pupils. The success of the college was in a great measure due to the exertions of Mr. and Mrs. Hambling. It must be recollected that they had to be sent from England, and although their conjoint salary was not a large one, it was a heavy drain on the resources of the college. Mr. and Mrs. Hambling had for a considerable time used the limited quarters of two rooms of the college as a residence, but now the management had seen fit to rent a house for them, and they hoped to be able to receive boarders. There were many boys in the neighboring parts whose parents would probably feel inclined to send their children to Hongkong when they would not send them home. The Bishop also called attention to the sources of support of the institution, stating that they were derived from subscriptions, fees, and a Government grant. His Lordship dwelt at considerable length on these various items, calling attention to their individual inadequacy, and said that it was mainly to the generosity of subscribers that the institution owed its support. He would like to see the sum of £5000 deposited as an educational fund in support of the institution. Alluding to the prospectus of the management of the school for the ensuing term, His Lordship said that "not a word had been made for the study of Chinese and Latin. Regarding the former language, it was not to be taught after the manner in which the Chinese themselves learn it, as he thought this would be no benefit derived from a lot of boys studying Chinese at the highest pitch of their voices, as is done in some of the schools in the colony. It would be necessary for all aspirants to a Government position to be well up in the Chinese language; and a class of some 70 or 80 boys, whose parents had consented to the management, would be formed under the tutelage of an experienced Chinese teacher. A small extra fee would be charged for this. The system to be adopted for the acquisition of Chinese would be to commence with the study of the written Cantonese, for which proper books would be furnished, and afterwards the written character would be taught. The examinations had been held under the personal superintendence of the Rev. W. Jennings, J. B. O'Byrne, W. Lee, and Mr. J. B. Coughtrie, all of whom reported very satisfactorily on the progress of the pupils during the year special mention being made of Master Francis, whose papers in English composition were highly praised. His Lordship concluded by expressing his thanks to and approval of the management adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Hambling in instructing the boys. The total number of scholars now was 133, and he hoped shortly to see that number largely increased. Before requesting His Excellency the Governor to distribute the prizes, he would call attention to the prizes themselves, which had not yet been sold for, and which cost nearly one hundred pounds. He thought there would be a sufficient number of scholars to enable the management to pay for the prizes. Applause.

His Excellency then delivered the following address:—"Ladies and gentlemen, I am very glad to be present at this interesting occasion. It will always be a duty and my pleasure to promote the great cause of education by all the means in my power. The prizes which have been distributed in the past have been successful in the past, and I wish to address a few words of steady encouragement."

PRIZE LIST.
CLASS I.
F. Shepherd.—Reading, composition, algebra, geometry, history, grammar, and physiology.
A. Möller.—Arithmetic, euclid, physiology, map drawing, frehand, landscape, geography, and time drawing.
T. Lamont.—Algebra, composition, English history, map drawing, and time drawing.
L. Barr.—Physical geography, geology, euclid, physiology, frehand drawing, and landscape.
Fritz Lamont.—Holy Scripture, reading, and English history.

CLASS II.
Frank Lamont.—Writing, spelling, history, and grammar.
Rif. Ramsay.—Arithmetic, geology, map, physical geography, history, general geography, drawing, (landscape and flower).
Ernest Lamont.—General improvement.
Fred. Grimbale.—Holy Scripture, writing, spelling, and drawing (flowers).
Andr. Millar.—Attendance, grammar, geography, and drawing (flowers).
J. W. Williams.—Good conduct and general improvement.

CLASS III.
T. Singh.—Writing and grammar.
F. Horwood.—Map drawing and flower drawing.
A. W. Gelson.—Good conduct and general improvement, and Home lessons.
J. Kennedy.—Good conduct, general improvement, and Home lessons.
Bertie Grimbale.—Reading.
Bertie Sampson.—Map drawing and arithmetic.

CLASS IV.
Ernest Sheppard.—Writing, geography, and map drawing.
D. Mehta.—Arithmetic and reading.

CLASS V.
Geo. White.—General improvement.
W. Houghton.—Reading.
G. Aitken.—Arithmetic.
E. Ray.—Writing.
F. Morris.—Drawing and general improvement.

Boys recently admitted to whom prizes are given, for encouragement, are: Hayward, Lobb, C. Aitken, V. Dodd, S. Hayward, H. Hayward, and A. White.

CHINKIANG.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
12th December, 1883.
Since the exodus of troops, which left this port a few days since by the China Merchants steamer *Yangtze*, *Poochi*, and *Fungshai*, there have been no soldiers to guard the fort, and the vicinity of Chinkiang, yesterday, was a contingent of 500 men, arrived from Ningbo, they were brought down in native boats to the Chinese gun-vessel, *Yin Yeh*. They are under the command of General Chung. Our Band is now undergoing a thorough repair. New pipes are being driven in the breaches, and when the river has fallen sufficiently, the stone facing of sea-wall, I believe, will be commenced. The British gun-boat *Albatross* arrived today, at 3.30 p.m., and came to anchor off the fort.

THE HONOURABLE FRANCIS BULKLEY JOHNSON, a member of the Legislative Council, and President of the ancient business firm of JARDINE, MATHESON and Co., has once more been arrogating to himself the powers of an autocrat in trying to distinguish himself in a vain endeavour to force public opinion by the mere weight of his mighty game and assumed gigantic influence in the colony. Mr. JOHNSON has again courted the fierce blaze of public notoriety—and for what? It would appear to a disinterested observer that the honourable gentleman, utterly oblivious of the respect his public position owes to the administration of the law, is desirous of posing before the community of Hongkong and the world at large as one of those wise and good men, benefactors and protectors of injured innocents, who do nothing for appearance, but everything for the sake of having acted well. And we leave our readers to judge for themselves from the subjoined statement of facts whether or not the success anticipated has been achieved in the worthy gentleman's latest attempt at professional and trumpet-tongued philanthropy. We might fairly use a very much harsher and uglier term than "philanthropy," and be under no apprehensions of retaliation in the shape of a criminal prosecution or an action at law for alleged libel; but it would serve no useful end to indulge in strong language, however justified we might be in so doing. Had we been allowed to follow the bent of our own personal inclinations, we should have acted in strict accordance with Washington's famous maxim, that to persevere in one's duty and to be silent is the best answer to calumny, but the urgent solicitations of numerous friends and supporters, gentlemen of character and position in the colony, and their representations that what might with advantage be treated with scornful contempt out in the great world, cannot be brushed aside with indifference like a troublesome wasp in a place like Hongkong, are unanswerable arguments, and so in self-defence, like Byron in "Love's Labour's Lost," once more step we forth to whip hypocrisy.

On the 28th of last month the Editor of this journal was arraigned at the Supreme Court on a charge of having written, printed and published a false, scandalous and defamatory libel of and concerning the Honourable JOHN McNEIL PRIZE, Surveyor-General of Hongkong, such alleged libel being to the effect that the said Honourable JOHN McNEIL PRIZE had been guilty of jobbery and corruption in his said office of Surveyor-General. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. JOE J. FRANCIS, barrister-at-law, leader of the Hongkong bar, and notwithstanding certain shortcomings for which perhaps it would be unfair to hold a person of his class altogether responsible, undoubtedly one of the cleverest lawyers that ever practised in the colony who was

instructed by Messrs. BRERETON, WORTON and DIXON, one of our best known firms of local solicitors. Mr. PRIZE had every thing his own way, including a special jury granted at his special request—the first time in 25 years that such a concession had been made, although frequently applied for in similar cases; he had the prestige of the Government at his back, and yet with all this, and although the Defendant had not the advantage of legal assistance, the gentlemen of the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty." In addressing the jury, Chief Justice Sir GEORGE PHILLIPS said:—"You will assuredly do your duty, gentlemen of the jury, and whatever your verdict, I am quite satisfied that neither the Prosecutor nor the Defendant will have any just cause to grumble." (The verdict, an almost universally popular one, was for the Defendant, so he was scarcely likely to complain, and if the pregnant words of the Chief Justice meant anything, the Prosecutor had no just cause to grumble, and so far as we know, Mr. J. M. PRIZE accepted his fate with becoming dignity, without whimpering like a whipped child. But the Honourable the Surveyor-General agreed with Sir GEORGE PHILLIPS that he had received that justice which the merits of his case deserved, there was at least one grumbler, one meddling body, who set his opinion high above that of the Chief Justice, the members of the Special Jury, and the public generally, and that body was the Honourable FRANCIS BULKLEY JOHNSON.

The day after the termination of the trial alluded to above, a movement was set on foot by Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON with the avowed object of obtaining a sufficient amount by public and private subscriptions to defray the legal costs incurred by Mr. PRIZE in his unsuccessful prosecution. The Honourable the Surveyor-General may possibly be a fitting object for public charity, and if so, our common humanity, apart altogether from likes and dislikes and the question of right or wrong, would commend any truly philanthropic effort having for its aim the relief of a fellow creature, the victim of misfortune. But if this be the case, and on no other possible grounds is the *raison d'être* of this scolding round the hat comprehensible, we think we are fairly entitled to take exception, "not so much to the match as to the manner of the wooing." In the local papers of the 18th inst. appears the following letter, signed by the Honourable FRANCIS BULKLEY JOHNSON and 99 other residents in this colony:—

Hongkong, 1st December, 1883.

The Honourable J. M. PRIZE, Surveyor-General.

Sir,—We the undersigned residents in the Colony desire to express our sympathy with you in reference to certain articles recently published in the columns of a local newspaper and containing statements which, in our opinion, cannot be too strongly condemned.

As it is our duty to ensure you, not only of our respect for your personal character, but also of our confidence in your administration of the Department of the Public Service over which you have, for so many years, presided with such admirable efficiency.

We therefore our appreciation of the position you took up with regard to the late J. M. PRIZE, and the manner in which you discharged the onerous public duty which we unanimously consider you have done to the satisfaction of all who have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servants.

Now we have not the least intention of disputing a right that every man is entitled to, sufficient freedom of action to be at

least the master of his own opinions, and we are frank enough to candidly admit that amongst the one hundred signatures attached to the above exquisite specimen of JOHNSONIAN literature, there are some which may be taken as an honest expression of independent opinion on the questions at issue in the recent libel case. Such expressions of opinion are entitled to respect, however erroneous they may be in principle and baseless in foundation, but only as the independent beliefs of men of integrity whose positions and character place them beyond the breath of suspicion, and even then, the rights of justice must not be unfairly infringed upon.

As it has appeared in the local press, the above letter is about as gross an attempt at imposition on a too credulous public as could well be imagined. In the first place it is dated December 1st, and the natural inference is that the hundred signatures were attached on that day; secondly, it pretends to be a unanimous and spontaneous expression of public opinion on the subject of the late trial; and thirdly, it attempts to bolster up the ridiculous assumption that Mr. J. M. PRIZE in his private (we will not say contemptible and malicious) prosecution of the Editor of this journal was discharging an onerous public duty. Now for the facts. On December 1st the precious document quoted above was signed by the Honourable FRANCIS BULKLEY JOHNSON and Mr. W. H. ROBERTS, and on the same date the Committee of the Hongkong Club (to which we are credibly informed) declined to allow it to be exhibited in the club-house. Instead of being a spontaneous expression of public sympathy for an injured Government official, it was a letter written, we believe, in Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.'s office, and industriously hawked round the colony of Hongkong by complacent retainers of the so-called "princely house." Before the hundred signatures could be obtained, the colony was canvassed three separate times, and when independent men declined the pressing solicitations of the worthy laborers to sacrifice their principles and honest convictions at the shrine of toadyism, the acum of the town had to be resorted to. What onerous public service we would ask, did Mr. J. M. PRIZE perform in carrying out to the bitter end a prosecution which he, by his counsel, vehemently asserted in court was undertaken solely for the vindication of his personal character? What onerous public duty devolved on Mr. PRIZE's shoulders when he wrote to the Hongkong Government, denouncing the Editor of the *Telegraph* as a convicted criminal pursuing his abandoned career? Has Mr. FRANCIS BULKLEY JOHNSON, has any one of the ninety and nine other signatories of this address, the courage to reply?

A few words as to the *personae* of the hundred signatures. The list certainly contains the names of several of our leading residents—men whose honor and good-faith are above suspicion—but it does not contain the amount of their contributions to the fund, nor does it indicate in any way the true reasons which induced these gentlemen to sign. That these reasons are not as set out in the address, we have received ample assurances from numbers of the signatories. There are no fewer than 17 clerks and retainers of the princely house of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON and Co. in the list, exclusive of about 20 brokers and others whose interests are bound up in following the lead of the all-powerful Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON. The Directorate of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, is, of course, strongly represented, and the example of the popular Manager of that institution is, also of course, followed, even by two or three specimens of his rag-tag and bobtail junior clerks. We are surprised to observe the names of several gentlemen who were absent from the colony at the time of the trial, and consequently can know nothing, except by mere report, of the facts of the case. A man who knows only one side of a case, is acquainted with very little of that. The value to be placed upon the dozen *Parsons* who figure as sympathisers with Mr. PRIZE, can best be appraised from the facts that they were personally solicited for their signatures by a *Pagsee* broker in the employ of JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., and that several of them have since admitted that they were quite ignorant of what they were signing. There is a lot more small fry evidently anxious for publicity, but their existence, like their influence, is of such trifling importance to anybody that it may be safely ignored. The German gentlemen who adhibited their signatures would have displayed better taste by remaining neutral in a matter which had no earthly concern for them, and we make that observation, fully recognising their right to act as they think proper. It would also have been more creditable to the three or four public servants who have so far forgotten what they owe to the Government as to allow their names to appear in such a place, had they exercised a little more caution and discretion. But the height of indecency was surely reached when Mr. E. L. WOODIN, one of the jurymen at the trial, signed the address. Mr. JOE J. FRANCIS modestly contributes his mite to assist in paying his own bill, and after seeing his name, we have concluded that Mr. JOHNSON's letter only requires one more signature to make it complete—that of Mr. EDWARD ROSS.

It was our original intention to have analysed far more carefully than we have done, the hundred names obtained at such great trouble to console Mr. PRIZE in his dark hour, but the game is really not worth the candle. As at least fifty out of the hundred have taken the trouble to personally congratulate us on the result of the trial, the genuine character of this so-called public demonstration is largely discounted. Hundreds of gentlemen in the colony, in all sorts of positions, official and unofficial, civil, naval and military, from members of the Legislative Council downwards, were solicited to sign the address and sub-

scribe towards defraying Mr. PRIZE's legal expenses, and hundreds refused to do anything of the sort. It took all the influence of Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON nearly three weeks to secure one hundred names to his subscription list, of whom more than half were vassals and retainers of the "princely house," had a similar address been sent round for the Editor of the *Telegraph*, a thousand names would have been forthcoming in three days.

As the special jury returned a verdict in favor of the Defendant in PRIZE, v. FRASER-SMITH, they were, of course, in the eyes of Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON and his fault-finding supporters, ignorant, bigotted, prejudiced, and everything else that is not nice. Had their verdict been the other way, no praise would have been enough for them. That kind of thing in political life is called ringing the changes; it is, unhappily, a plant of luxuriant growth in Hongkong. Nothing is easier than fault finding in all branches of life. A man requires no talent, no education, no brains and no character to set up in the grumbling business; but the career of a persistent grumbler is not a distinguished one. Many men in this world, in this colony, are esteemed by certain classes merely because they are not known. They mask their real dispositions with so much success as occasionally to gain respect and credit for qualities which they never possessed. This address and subscription to Mr. J. M. PRIZE illustrate these truths. But public men like Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON should remember not only that there are two sides to every question, which should be judged without prejudice, but also that an injudicious advocate is frequently more hurtful to a friend's cause than a violent adversary. We cannot honestly think that what we consider to be an ill-judged attempt to whitewash Mr. PRIZE at our expense will in any way improve that person's position with the public, but quite the contrary. Time will show.

So far as we are personally concerned, fortified by a self-approving conscience we can justly feel proud of having done our duty. Our experiences have not been particularly pleasant, but experience bought by suffering is instructive; it has been so to us, and we value it accordingly. Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON must know that deeds show what men are, words only what they should be; and he should also try to think that even he is not infallible, and to remember that a man's belief in his own infallibility is a sure road to injustice. In conclusion, to the gentleman who signed the now famous address to the Honourable the Surveyor-General, we say in the words of the Latin orator, *Quam temere in nosmet legem sancimus iniquam*.

Although we have considered it our duty to the public to frequently criticise adversely the public acts and political career of the Honourable the Surveyor-General of this colony, we have never refused to pay a just tribute to Mr. PRIZE's undoubted talents. In a government service which includes men of such tried ability as Dr. STEWART and Mr. JUSTICE RUSSELL, we have not hesitated to publish our honest conviction that Mr. JOHN McNEIL PRIZE towered head and shoulders above all his peers. As a matter of fact, we have for a long time considered that this accomplished colonial servant's transcendent abilities were wasted on the desert air of such a place as Hongkong, and once suggested in these columns that if by any possible means he could be conveniently translated to the Suez Canal, or some other gigantic undertaking of world-wide interest requiring a genius to direct its destinies, it would be greatly to the benefit not only of the Suez Canal, and the world at large, but also to Hongkong and its community. It is quite possible to have too much genius and ability in a comparatively subordinate position, and while we felt that the vast experience and priceless services of the Surveyor-General should not be altogether lost to the British Government, we were of opinion that a less brilliant schemer and master of modern politics, but a more practical maker and mender of roads, bridges, buildings, sea-walls, waterworks, tramways, harbours of refuge, &c., &c., would answer equally well the requirements of this community. Mr. PRIZE certainly is entitled to great credit for the perseverance, the fertility of resource, the never ceasing watchfulness, the audacity, and, above all, the consummate skill and ability which he displayed in his guerrilla warfare against Governor HENNESSY some two years ago, and no greater monument could be raised in evidence of all these than by simply pointing to the very tangible amount of success which attended the Honourable gentleman's campaign in England. Admitting that the bitterest of Fox HENNESSY's many opponents never allowed any inconvenient scruples to interfere with his plan of battle, we cannot avoid acknowledging, the cleverness, which, against the combined talents, influence and position of one of the ablest of modern diplomatists, fairly held its own. And that Mr. PRIZE's hand has in no way lost its cunning is clearly proved by his latest public act.

In a recent issue, we made some reference to certain proceedings illustrating how folly will constantly place itself in the foremost rank to be seen and talked about; we have now to give an instance of how wisdom, or cunning, or diplomacy, sands quietly in the background, and steps in at the right moment to take advantage of folly's blunders. It may be worth while to remark, merely to prevent misunderstanding, that we have no wish to argue that wisdom and cunning are synonymous terms, although they are coupled in the preceding sentence. As GUY RUSSELL puts it, we take cunning for a sinister or crooked wisdom, and there is certainly a great difference between a cunning man and a wise man, not only in point of honesty but in point of ability.

When the Honourable FRANCIS BULKLEY JOHNSON used his paramount influence to obtain a sufficient amount of subscriptions among his friends and those dependent on his friendship to pay the legal costs of Mr. PRIZE's recent *private* prosecution of the Editor of the *Hongkong Telegraph*, he must have known—or as a public man, member of the Legislative Council, resident head of the firm of JARDINE, MATHESON and Co., consul for Hawaii and several other countries if we mistake not, and moving spirit in various public institutions such as the China and Luzon Sugar Refineries; he is far more ignorant than we take him to be—that the Hongkong Government could not allow the Surveyor-General to accept one cent from the public for any such purpose. If Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON was not aware of this, it is perfectly certain that Mr. PRIZE was, and this is the really clever manner in which the Surveyor-General gets himself out of a false position, and makes a virtue of necessity.

Public Works Department, Hongkong, 18th December, 1883.

My dear Sir—I desire to tender my grateful acknowledgments to you, and through yourself to the large number of gentlemen who have been good enough to address me in the terms of the letter which you forwarded to me yesterday.

Conscious that I have never been actuated except by a strict sense of duty in all my official acts during the ten years that I have devoted to the public service of the colony, and that in the administration of the Department with which I have the honor to be connected, I have always endeavored to do the best for the interests of the public, according to my abilities, whatever these may be worth, it has been very gratifying to me to find that so important a portion of my fellow colonists should have given no credence to the imputations of unworthy motives as persistently made by private malice in connection with nearly every act of my official life, and that their confidence in my personal character and in my ability to continue usefully serving the colony, should have remained unshaken. It is a great honor to a Government servant to be the recipient of a public testimonial couched in the language of the one who have been good enough to transmit to me. I am very sensible of this honor, and find it difficult to express adequately my appreciation of the kindly feeling that has prompted this manifestation of good will on the part of so many whose opinions I estimate so highly. I need scarcely add that the document will be valued by me as the pleasantest memorial of my life in China.

Although it is true that in the position I was recently called upon to take I was discharging a public duty, I do not consider that on this account I have any claim upon the public, and I trust therefore that I may not appear ungrateful, or that I may not hurt the susceptibilities of my friends, if I do not avail myself of their most generous proposal to defray the cost of the recent legal proceedings. So practical a proof of the genuineness of their sympathy, though it may not be abused by me, adds none the less to the heavy obligation under which I must always remain to those kind and generous members of the community who have favoured me on this occasion with their confidence and support, and I must once more solicit your good offices to convey to them this expression of my heartfelt thanks. Believe me, my dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

J. M. PRIZE, Surveyor-General.

The Hon. F. Bulkley Johnson, M.L.C.

The great game of life, in politics as in everything else, is like a game at cards; the player who holds the winning hand can afford to laugh at his antagonists. Mr. PRIZE, with every possible advantage on his side, fought out to the bitter end what he, by his own action, made a war to the knife; he fell into the very common mistake of counting his chickens before they were hatched, and made no provision for the stunning reverse which awaited him. Although the verdict of the special jury practically made the acquittal of Mr. FRASER-SMITH the conviction of Mr. JOHN McNEIL PRIZE, and holding as we did the winning cards in our own hands, we have had no desire to press with undue harshness on an opponent who placed his fate in the hands of a jury of his own countrymen, selected by himself, and lost the cost of the die. Even now, in the face of the Surveyor-General's attempt to make himself a martyr in the eyes of the public, we are disposed to pity a beaten adversary, notwithstanding the contemptible expedients he resorts to in what we presume is meant to be his vindication for his recent profitless prosecution. If Mr. PRIZE will ask his learned and accomplished legal friend, JOHN JOSEPH FRANCIS, Esquire, barrister-at-law, &c., &c., &c., that ornament to an honorable profession will inform him that when, in the above letter, he imputed "private malice" to the criticisms of his official acts which have appeared in this journal, he laid himself open to a criminal prosecution or an action at law for libel, which, as a matter of law and justice, must have been decided against him. We desire to be exceptionally lenient to the Honourable gentleman, or we should quote his sworn evidence at the recent trial on this same question of private malice. But we can afford to be generous, and for the present we are disposed to allow Mr. PRIZE plenty of rope.

The Honourable the Surveyor-General, taking his cue from the Honourable the Member for JARDINE's wishes, it to be assumed it was true, may more positively assert that it was true, that in the recent prosecution for libel, the position he was called upon to take was in discharge of a public duty. We defy the Honourable the Surveyor-General, we defy the Honourable FRANCIS BULKLEY JOHNSON, we defy each and all of their adherents and supporters, to show what was the duty to the public the Surveyor-General was discharging when he took criminal proceedings to defend his own private character. The Honourable gentleman further desires not to appear ungrateful, or to in any way hurt the susceptibilities of his friends, but as he has no claim on the public on account of having been mulct in heavy damages in discharging a public duty, he cannot avail himself of their most generous proposal to defray the cost of the recent legal proceedings. What does all this actually mean? Humbug, pure and

simple. Mr. J. M. PRIZE knows perfectly well that no servant of Her Majesty's Government would be allowed, under such circumstances, to accept money from members of the community for discharging any public duty, and he would occupy a much better position before the public at the present moment had he frankly explained the true situation, instead of endeavoring to make a virtue out of a necessity. It is, of course, quite possible that Mr. PRIZE's spirit of malice would have revolted against being made the recipient of Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON's bountiful consideration—we are purposely avoiding offensive expressions—and in view of the dignity of his position we can only regret that he did not in straightforward fashion, whilst declining the favors offered, state that he could not, even if he desired, accept the substantial sum subscribed.

When the Honourable Mr. PRIZE is translated to another and more congenial sphere—as we sincerely hope and have every reason to believe will shortly be the case—he can rest assured that his name and fame will remain green in Hongkong for many years. Besides the famous libel prosecution, the Surveyor-General's name is indelibly associated with too many well known works of magnitude to be easily forgotten. His decided triumph over Governor HENNESSY in London, the wonderful letter on Tramways, our favorite "white elephant" the breakwater, the reclamation of that unsavoury locality Causeway Bay, the magnificent wall in front of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's property in Garden Road, the removal of the temporary lazaretto from Stonecutters' Island to Tytam Tuk and its deplorable results, that splendid monument of engineering skill, the Tytam Water-works, the useful and ornamental road from the Government offices to Heaven knows where, the wonderful improvements made in the colony's imperfect drainage system during his ten years of active service, these and many other great and glorious undertakings will, no doubt, perpetuate Mr. PRIZE's memory for evermore, and they ought also to be the pleasantest memorial of his life in China.

Justice without power is impotent; power without justice is tyrannical. Holding the power in our own hands, we have endeavored to be strictly just; justice alone has placed in our hands the power we hold. We had no wish to engage in further newspaper controversy with our late antagonist; the differences, still unsettled must be finally decided elsewhere. But in the face of Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON's amusing address and Mr. PRIZE's still more amusing reply, in self defence we were compelled to enter the arena. It is a difficult, after the most careful consideration, to explain what was actually intended by Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON when he started his address and subscription list—but we are charitably disposed to believe that the Honourable gentleman acted in ignorance, and unthinkingly. By this time, presuming our assumption to be correct, it must have dawned upon Mr. JOHNSON's intelligence, giving him credit for possessing that commodity, that acting in ignorance, and without thinking is very much like a man shooting at a target without taking aim. In this instance, that has been the exact result of this latest so-called public demonstration.

WHATSOEVER differences of opinion may exist as to the success or non-success of Governor BOWEN's rule in Hongkong up to the present time, it must at least be admitted that His Excellency has strenuously endeavored to be strikingly complacent in public to the representatives of the various interests prominent in the colony, and shown himself, under all circumstances, not above taking well meant advice, as well as being always amenable to reason. And in pursuing what cannot fail to be a generally popular policy, if judiciously managed, Sir GEORGE has acted wisely, and politically speaking, with sound discretion. Complaisance, like politeness, costs nothing, but is yet of infinite value to a public man. It pleases everybody, prejudices none, adorns will, renders humour agreeable, augments friendship, and when united with thorough independence and a strict sense of justice, becomes a most powerful factor in political as well as social life. Governor BOWEN entered on his public career in Hongkong with the avowed intention of treating on terms of perfect equality all the subjects of Her Majesty within his jurisdiction; he expressly and distinctly stated in the Council Chamber, after taking the oath of office, that he had come to the colony without bias of any kind, and determined to administer the authority placed in his hands with strict impartiality for the benefit of every race, every creed, and every class in the community. We repeat now what we have frequently stated, that if His Excellency will remain steadfast to the promises he then made, his term of office in this "dot on the ocean" will bear good fruit. But as Sir GEORGE BOWEN always acted up to the principles of strict impartiality between the different races in Hongkong, which he so forcibly enunciated on the eventful occasion alluded to, owing a qualified support to Her Majesty's Government, we are desirous of assisting His Excellency as far as lies in our power, in the fair administration of Hongkong affairs; but we are unable, nor would Sir GEORGE BOWEN wish it to be otherwise, to support anything in the shape of injustice. And our reason for writing this article is to point out to the Governor and the community what we submit is a flagrant act of official injustice.

The question of the re-constituted Legislative Council is, at present, one of the most prominent subjects of discussion before the public, and naturally a considerable amount of interest is taken in the probable results of what is supposed to be the first attempt at popular election in the political history of

the colony. Three new members are required, who are to be nominated by the Bench of Justices of the Peace, the Chamber of Commerce, and the leading members of the Chinese community respectively. In our yesterday's issue we republished from the *Gazette* letters from the Colonial Secretary to the Senior Police Magistrate, (as convener of the Bench of Justices) and the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, giving instructions as to the mode in which the elections were to be conducted. We regretted being unable to republish similar instructions to the leading Chinese residents. In fact, to speak plainly, we were exceedingly sorry that His Excellency was induced to break faith with the Chinese community, by not allowing them the same privileges he has given to the Bench of Justices and the Chamber of Commerce. The only Chinese representative body in this colony, having any distinctive social or political standing, is the Tung Wah Hospital. This is not only a powerful but a thoroughly representative institution, and unless all we have heard about popular election and no distinction of race and creed is a twaddle and humbug, the domination of the Chinese member should have been left entirely in its hands. Why this has not been done should certainly be publicly explained.

The Chinese member of the Legislative Council should properly represent Chinese interests. He should not be a mere cipher, nominated by the Registrar General, and a few of his Anglo-Chinese admirers, but an independent and capable man, the *bona fide* nominee of the Chinese community. It is reported, with what truth we know not, that the Governor has already selected for the Chinese member's seat, on representations made by the Registrar General—an elderly gentleman named Wong Sang, who is living in retirement in the colony. So far as we can ascertain from searching inquiries made amongst all classes of the native community, Mr. WONG SANG is a very respectable old gentleman, who is generally and deservedly esteemed, but who, on account of his great age and other infirmities, is totally incapable of properly representing in a European legislative assembly the interests of his countrymen. Besides, it is currently reported that Mr. WONG SANG is not desirous of the honorable distinction designed for him, and that he has been badgered into acquiescence by the importunities of certain official intriguers and the Anglo-Chinese gentlemen already mentioned. Mr. WONG SANG, we further see by the *Governor's Gazette*, is going through the laughable farce of being whitewashed—that is naturalised—by a special ordinance. Such an arrangement, as this system of naturalisation cannot be too severely taboed, and we trust that Governor BOWEN, in the interests of the Chinese merchants and community at large, will, without loss of time, do something to make naturalisation dependent on a residential qualification, as is done in other civilized countries; meanwhile it would be eminently satisfactory to know why the Chinese have not been allowed to nominate their representative for the Council, in the same manner as the Bench of Justices and the Chamber of Commerce.

THE RE-CONSTITUTED LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The following letters, dealing with the question of the nomination by the Bench of Justices of the Peace, and the Chamber of Commerce of candidates for the new seats in the Legislative Council, are published for general information in a special issue of the *Governor's Gazette*, circulated on the night of the 20th inst.

COLONIAL SECRETARY TO SENIOR POLICE MAGISTRATE.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 20th December, 1883.

Sir,—You are already aware that upon the Governor's recommendation, as approved by Her Majesty the Queen, certain changes will be made in the constitution of the Legislative Council, and that for the future one Unofficial Member of that body, who, as a general rule, be appointed on the nomination of the Justices of the Peace.

As it is the intention of His Excellency to support the re-constituted Council to meet for the despatch of business as soon as Her Majesty's Order giving effect to the reform already approved has been received, it is desirable that the nomination of a Member by the Justices should be made at an early period.

His Excellency is advised that you, as the Senior Police Magistrate, are the proper Officer to convene and preside at a meeting of the Justices for that purpose.

You are therefore directed to convene a meeting of the Justices at an early date, and at some convenient place, and to invite them then and there to make their choice, and to return to me for submission to His Excellency the name of the Justice nominated.

His Excellency is advised that, in the absence of rules guiding the Justices in a matter of this nature, you should observe in conducting the proceedings the following rules based on Parliamentary practice in England:

1.—The name of every Candidate will be proposed in writing by one Justice, and seconded by another.

2.—No Justice will put more than one vote.

3.—The voting will be by ballot.

4.—The name of every Justice voting will be recorded.

5.—The ballot boxes will be opened and the votes counted in the presence of the Justices present.

6.—Candidates, as such, are not disqualified from voting.

7.—In case two or more Candidates having the largest number of votes, their names will be submitted to another ballot.

8.—As to any other matter connected with the order of proceeding you will be guided by the wishes of the majority of the Justices present.

9.—The return should be accompanied by the Governor's distribution.

10.—A copy of the notice convening the meeting.

11.—A list of the Justices present at the meeting.

12.—A list of the Candidates with the names of their proposer and seconders.

13.—A list of the return.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1883.

Whereas a memorial has been addressed to
by the Officers of the Public Works Depart-
ment, praying that enquiry should be made
into certain charges which have been publicly
made against them; and whereas it is expedient
that the prayer of the memorialists should be
granted; and that such enquiry should be in-
stituted; and also into the circumstances under
which information respecting Departmental cor-
respondence has been communicated to persons
of in the Government service; Now, therefore,
Sir George Ferguson Bowen, Knight Grand
Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint
Michael and Saint George, Governor and Com-
mander-in-Chief of the Colony of Hongkong
and the Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of
the Fleet, do hereby, by the advice of the
Executive Council, appoint the Honourable
Edward Laughlin O'Malley, Attorney-General,
and the Honourable Alfred Lister, Treasurer, and
the Honourable Francis Bulkeley Johnson to be
a Commission to make such enquiry; and to
report to me; and I hereby charge all persons
of the public service to assist them therein; and
all persons having information to communicate
respecting the charges are hereby invited to
furnish the same to the said Commission.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of
the Colony, this 22nd day of December, 1885.

As we did not charge the Surveyor-General's department with being a hot-bed of jobbery without what appeared to be good grounds, it goes for the crediting that we are in possession of a considerable collection of information which could throw a deal of light on the subject. But we have not the remotest intention of wasting our valuable time with such a hold-at-corner Commission as the O'Malley-Spencer-Johnson combination. We repeat this distinctly, that apart from all other considerations, after the part they played in the "J. M. Price" address, both Mr. SPENCER and Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON are not qualified to sit on this Commission, as they are thoroughly independent and unbiased judges. And the only fair inference we can draw from such a palpable blunder in their appointment is, that Governor WOOD has been badly advised by those distinguished themselves in generally muddling up the affairs of this colony.

Footwork—In first to the wickets and nap the respectable total of 183 runs, Stewart (31), Sanderson (31), Woodley (23), and Phillips (6) distinguishing themselves most. Hendry was the most successful bowler for the Hongkong team, securing 7 wickets for 50 runs, a really capital performance under the circumstances. The fielding was good all round, but there were several errors of judgment. Hendry especially was missed twice—fairly early in the innings. The following are the figures of the wickets fell in the following order:—one for 1, 2 for 5, 3 for 202, 4 for 140, 5 for 161, 6 for 163, 7 for 136, and 8, 9 and 10 for 183. Hongkong commenced badly. Rice being clean bowled for with the total at 7. Jarrett and Dangleish ran out, as did, when the former was run out, and Porter, who followed him, took for a duck. Hendry made a pile of a stand, being 7 before falling to a catch by Woodley of Stewart. Dangleish also being caught by Woodley off the same bowler for a very useful 31. When stumps were drawn for the night, the telegraph showed 183 for 5 wickets.

...ang-yen was threatened last night, and a gun-
boat and a company of soldiers were sent to the
assistance of the garrison. If anything serious
is transpired in that direction, the

men, killed and wounded, whilst the black flag credited with having lost three times that number. These, of course, are only approximate figures and are probably small.

to Yangchow, where they will study the language, before proceeding to the Far West.—*Insurance Union*

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